しおんの王

4

The Prince of Hard Blood.

原作 かとりまさる
漫画 安藤慈朗

Story · KATORI MASARU · Art · ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

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KC418

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雑誌 55723-18

ISBN4-06-314418-6

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アフタヌーンKC
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女流棋士として、

運命的に出会った3人の 少女

年齢も、

その前では対等になる

盤の

問われるのは棋士としての強さのみ

問われるのは棋

各界注目の本格将棋サスペンス第4弾！

各

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しおんの王

The Blossoms of Hand Blessed

Story | KATORI MASARU × Art ANDO JIRO
AFTERNOON KC

ぎんのふう

The Flowers of Hard Blood

登場人物紹介

ある家庭を襲った惨劇。夫婦が惨殺され、
なぜか子供だけ無事だった。
子供は、将棋のプロ棋士の家庭に引き取られ、
美しい少女に育つ。
義父の影響か、その少女・紫音も棋士になる道を選ぶが、
将棋界で2人の女流棋士と出会う。
斉藤歩、二階堂沙織。
3人はプロ昇格、はじめてのトーナメントと、棋士としての
節目で激しく対戦する。
育った環境も、将棋の個性も違う3人の女流棋士は、
好敵手として友人として、引きつけられ合うのだった。

安岡紫音（やすおかしおん）

女流棋士。幼い頃に両親を殺害されたショックで言葉を失う。会話はすべて筆談。14歳。

斉藤歩（さいとうあゆみ）

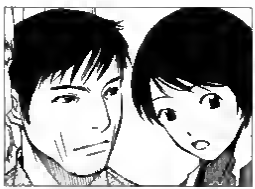
病弱の母のため、性別を偽り女流棋士になる。高校を中退。

二階堂沙織（にかいどうさおり）

女流初段。現名人・羽仁と兄弟弟子。
裕福な家庭に育った18歳。

羽仁真（はにまこと）

名人。



安岡夫妻（やすおかふさい）

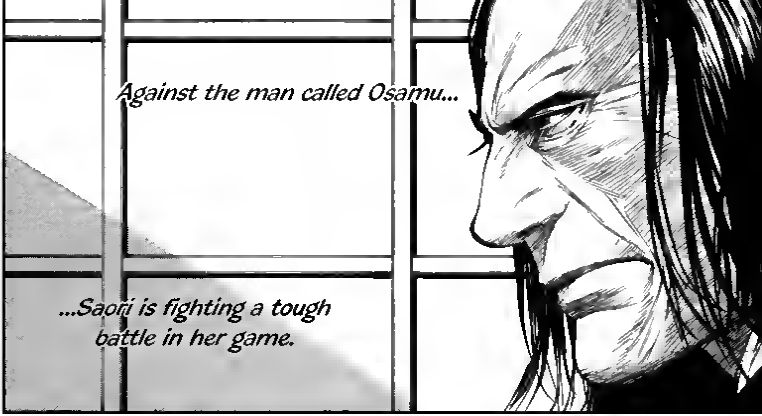
8年前、両親を失った紫音を引き取る。
現在では実の親子同然。

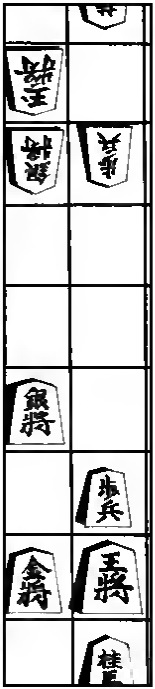
羽仁悟（はにさとる）

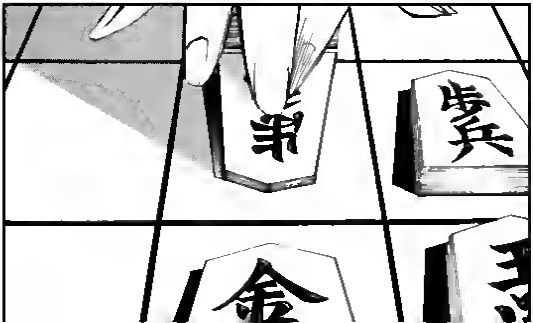
名人の弟。新道の実実家。

Master and Disciple

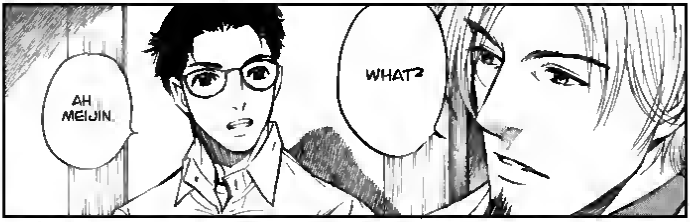
Chapter 19


Against the man called Osamu...
...Saori is fighting a tough battle in her game.




歩兵
金將

MOVED 3-7
AFTER THINKING ABOUT IT FOR SO LONG, YOU ONLY MADE THAT MOVE?
YEA--


WHAT?
AH MEIJIN.

SAORI JUST MOVED 3-7
HOWEVER, HE SPENT NEARLY 40 MINUTES ON THIS ONE MOVE...

HE WANTS TO FORCE HIS OPPONENT TO ATTACK...
EVERYONE WATCHING THE GAME FEELS THAT MOVING 3-5 WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH BETTER.

I DIDN'T THINK SAORI WOULD USE SUCH AN INTERESTING MOVE,
BUT I DON'T THINK OSAMU WILL BE TRICKED BY THAT

IF I MOVE MY KING DURING THE NEXT ROUND, SHE WILL USE THE 4TH PIECE...
EVEN THOUGH SHE ISN'T CONFIDENT, SHE MADE A GOOD MOVE.
SO, HE MOVED THAT PIECE.

IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE TO MOVE 1-5, THEN 1-9 THEN MAYBE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE!
OSAMU SEEMS TO BE A BIT... RUSHED?
4-5, EH?

NO
I CAN'T THINK ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE
THIS BATTLE SEEMS A BIT RECK-LESS
I DIDN'T THINK SHE'D BE THIS AUDACIOUS
I-9 FLY!

NEXT
2-I...

HMM?
HE'S GOING
TO HAVE TO
RETREAT
HERE!

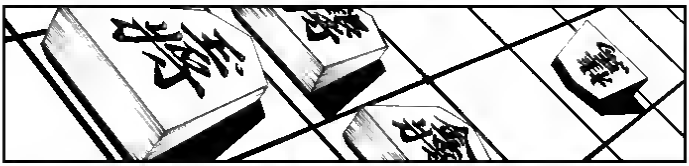
HUH?

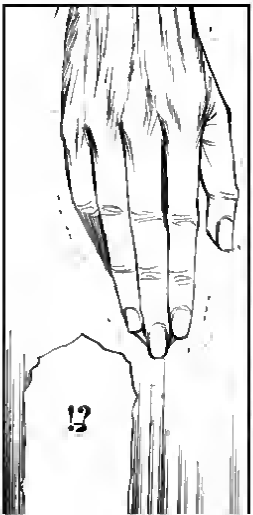
NEXT, HE MOVES HIS KING.
WHAT!?

ROOK MOVED TO 6-9!
THAT WAS A BOLD MOVE BY SAORI.

NO, NOT BOLD... IT WAS A RECKLESS, AND IMPULSIVE MOVE, RIGHT?
IF OSAMU'S NEXT MOVE IS TO MOVE HIS 3-KNIGHT, AND SAORI MOVES HER GOLD, THEN OSAMU WILL USE THE KNIGHT ON 4-5
IF SAORI MOVES TO EAT HIS SILVER,
THEN OSAMU WILL PUT PRESSURE ON SAORI'S KING AND THE GAME WILL BE OVER

YET, THE REAL BATTLE IS ONLY STARTING NOW
THE MATCH HAS GONE ON FOR 3 HOURS ALREADY

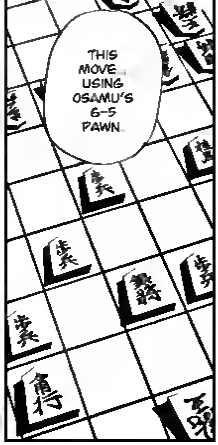


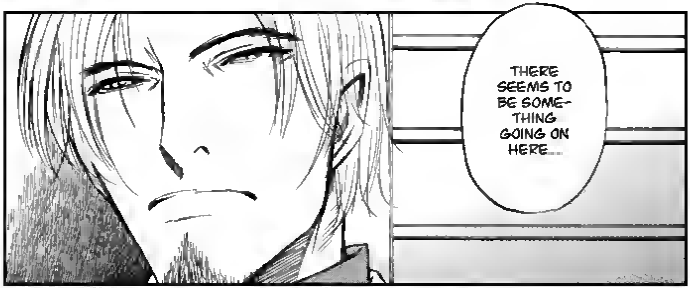

!?

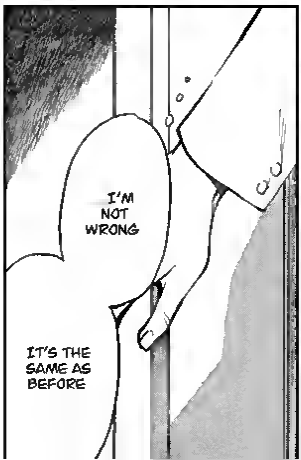
NOW OSAMU IS GOING TO ATTACK FOR REAL.
THIS WILL BE INTEREST-ING!

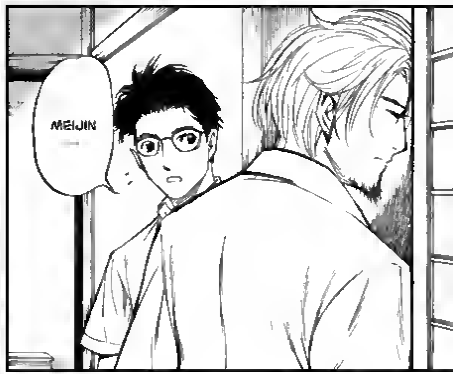
HIS HAND...
OSAMU-SAN...
HUH...

THIS DOESN'T SEEM LIKE OSAMU'S USUAL MOVE
YEAH

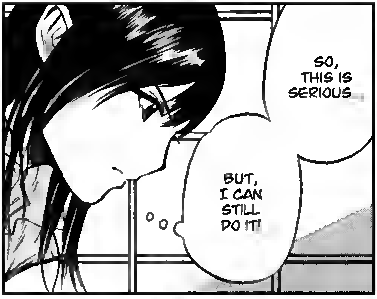

THIS MOVE USING OSAMU'S 6-5 PAWN

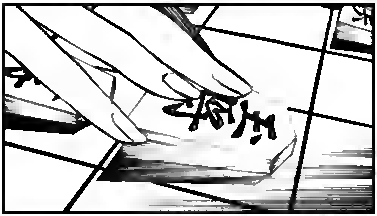

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING GOING ON HERE...

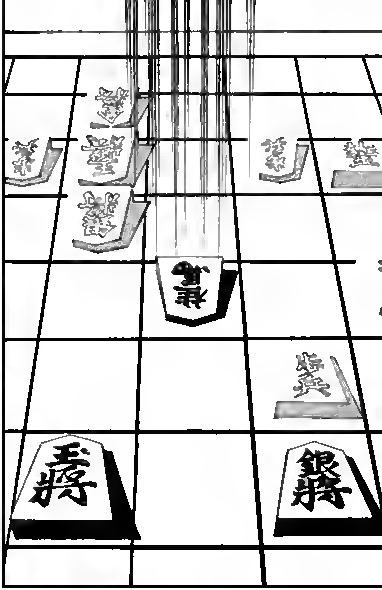

I'M NOT WRONG
IT'S THE SAME AS BEFORE


MEIJIN

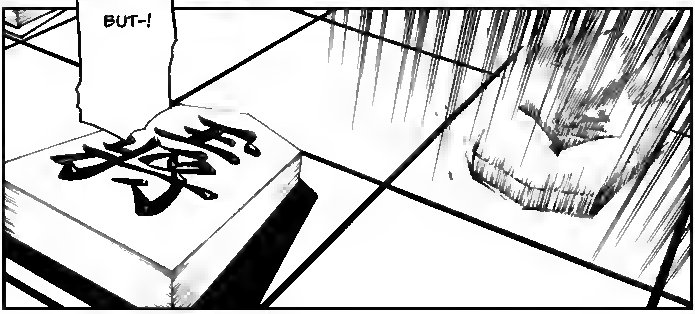
OR... MAYBE IT'S WORSE THAN I THOUGHT.
I CAN ONLY USE THE KING TO EAT IT.


SO, THIS IS SERIOUS
BUT, I CAN STILL DO IT!





4-2 KING JUST CAME OUT IN THE OPEN SO I'LL TAKE IT OUT.


BUT-!

I COULD USE MY KING.
HE USED THE 7-1 BISHOP TO ATTACK MY KNIGHT...
HE MOVED THE 5-3 KNIGHT.
THIS IS OSAMU'S HIDDEN CARD!
BUT THEN...
HAVE I BEEN TRAPPED ALREADY?

THREE HOURS HAVE PASSED ALREADY...
MY BODY IS ALREADY GOING NUMB
HOWEVER, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS GAME IS COMING TO AN END...
IF I MOVE THE BISHOP ON 6-1, SHE WILL MOVE THE 6-2 KNIGHT THEN I WOULD USE MY 4TH SILVER.
THEN THE 4TH LANCE...
NO WAY...

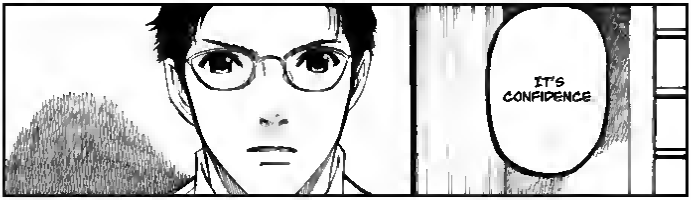
IT'S STILL NOT TRAPPED!?
BLACK KNIGHT TO 7-I I ALREADY THOUGHT HE WOULD DO THAT
馬

I CAN STILL DO THIS.
SHE'S QUITE CONFIDENT
SHE HAS PROBABLY FOUND A WAY AROUND THE TRAP
4-4 SILVER CAN NO LONGER TRAP MY PIECES
BUT, WHY ISN'T HE CHANGING HIS MOVES?

IF OSAMU IS CONFIDENT IN HIS PLAN
THEN I MUST BE CONFIDENT IN MY OWN!
HER SPIRIT IS GOOD...
THIS IS MY LAST TRY...
I MIGHT AS WELL TRY MY BEST!

OSAMU CAN NO LONGER ATTACK, BUT HAS TO DEFEND NOW
HUH WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN…
I DON'T KNOW…

SAORI JUST MADE AN INSANELY GOOD MOVE


IT'S CONFIDENCE

FINALLY IT'S THE KING'S TURN
NOW THEN

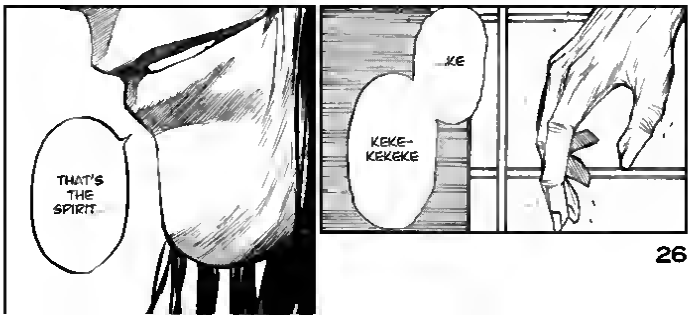
THE KING ON THIS SIDE WON'T GET TRAPPED ANYMORE
THIS GAME IS--
I'VE WON!

THIS BODY IS...
MY FEELINGS OF WINNING ARE SLOWLY SLIPPING AWAY...
AH
THIS GIRL BEFORE ME HAS A MUCH GREATER DEAL OF COURAGE THAN I DO
THIS WON'T BE MY EXCUSE

...OSAMU.
WHY DOES HE LOOK SO WARM ALL OF A SUDDEN?
HEY, LITTLE LADY...
IF I COLLAPSE IN FRONT OF YOU RIGHT NOW...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

THAT, OSAMU, MEANS YOU HAVE FORFEITED THIS GAME
I HAVE WON

敗
勝


KE
KEKE-KEKEKE
THAT'S THE SPIRIT

DON'T EVER FORGET THAT SPIRIT
神國
HA
HA

EVERY THING'S BEEN PACKED UP.

AND THE PHONE CALL LAST NIGHT WAS WEIRD...
WHAT IF---!?
しおん
大谷さんから着信
おりました。
お留守が有量か
家に着いたもので
す！！！！！

MASTER!
HMM?
NO, NOT LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION?
DID YOU THINK I'D KILL MYSELF JUST BECAUSE I LOST TO A GIRL?
Letter of Resignation.

THE DOCTOR...
SAYS I HAVE TO LIVE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WHILE

EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO KEEP PLAYING SHOGI
BUT WITH MY CURRENT CONDITION...

I ONLY HAVE SHOGI TO LIVE FOR NOW...

PEOPLE IMPORTANT TO ME HAVE DIED

LOOKS LIKE THE EMPTINESS WITHIN MY HEART IS LARGER THAN THIS SHOGI BOARD.
AYUMI
I'M HERE
YOU'VE JUST CALLED ME...
MASTER?
...YES

Being able to survive within such a cruel game...
DID THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY?
YOU---
ARE MY FIRST DISCIPLE.
...where each step must be carefully calculated...
Even so, Shogi players are also... just humans.

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は ☗ 4四銀まで）

☗先手 神園九段 持駒 金銀香歩三
一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九
☖後手 綿貫 鉄幕剛二 王将

（第2図は ☖ 2八銀まで）

☗先手 神園九段 持駒 飛歩二
一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九
☖後手 綿貫 鉄幕剛二 王将

鬼神と呼ばれた棋士を沙織が制す！

中井広恵さんという現役の女流棋士の方は、A級にもいたトッププロ九段をやっつけたそうです。35歳で子供さんが3人もいるのに強いんだからビックリ。北海道からプロを目指して小学校のときに内弟子（師匠の家に住むこと）になったそう。一心不乱にプロの道を選び突き進むということは、実力もさることながら勝負運も引き寄せるのでしょう。

さて、神園九段は、棋士としても一番強く花開いた自分の将棋を知っていたからこそ、年を重ねることに対局で本来の力が発揮できない自分に腹を立て酒に溺れ、対局からも遠のいていました。

第1図は神園九段が☗4四銀と指したところです。神園は数十手前からこの筋を考えていました。☖同玉なら☗4九香と攻めていく順です。しかし、大きな見落としをしていました。1枚駒が少なかったのです。持ち時間が少なくなると、プロも図覚しやすくなります。

神園の読みのミスをついて、沙織は冷静に着手し続け、入玉します。第2図がそうです。沙織の王が、なんと敵陣まで逃げ込んでしまった形です。「そんなところに入り込まれたことないナ」という方が圧倒的に多いと思いますが、詰めようとした神園の指し手からスルスルと王様を上手に逃がした沙織でした。羽仁の一言で、相手を強いと思わないことが勝利への道となったのです。

プロでもうっかりミスはかなりあるそうです。威圧力で相手をごまかすか、見破られるか、それもプロの技のうちだそうです。

将棋というのは、覚えてしまえば、不思議な魅力にとりつかれるようです！

「紫音は可愛いけど、将棋なんてやったことないし」とお思いの方、ぜひ図解きのように精神面を読む将棋にチャレンジしてみて下さい。

久住雪司■紫雲の女・安岡久野の内弟子
愛励会　段

Greetings, readers!

Hope you enjoyed the chapter
Be sure to stop by our forum
and website to download
future releases.

The scanlation of this
chapter was made possible by
the dedication and hard work
of the following people:

Translator: BlueCloud
Proofreader: Aries_Girl
Editor: Nomit
Quality Checker: Irie

Thanks,
you guys!

IMMORTAL ABYSS IS RECRUITING!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SCANLATORS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS! COME JOIN US SO WE CAN SCANLATE MORE AWESOME SERIES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

TRANSLATOR: CHINESE, JAPANESE OR KOREAN. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

CLEANER/TYPESETTER: MUST HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH EDITING MANGA, AND BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF PHOTOSHOP.

EDITOR: MUST BE ABLE TO CLEAN, TYPESET, AS WELL AS DO REDRAW.

Chapter 20 The ghost hand that can't be seen

YOU WANT TO ADVANCE TO THE GOLD GAMES?
...YES
将棋協会
CAN YOU PLEASE DO THAT?
YES... EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, I HAVE TO APOLOGIZE

AND YOU'RE SO CUTE! THERE'LL BE LOTS OF PEOPLE LOOKING FOR SERVICES...
WHAT IF YOU LOOK AROUND FOR OTHER KINDS OF COMPETITIONS? OR DON'T EVEN PLAY THESE GAMES AND EARN MONEY ANOTHER WAY?
WOMEN'S GOLD CHAMPIONSHIPS DON'T COME BY OFTEN.
I'M NOT LOOKING TO DO THOSE TYPE OF THINGS
AS FOR THE MONEY, HOW ABOUT MY COMPANY PAYS FOR IT?
I WOULD LOVE TO HELP AYUMI OUT

NO THANK YOU.
EH
THE FIRST GAME WAS BEAUTIFUL
SHION?

SHE SAYS SHE WANTS TO JOIN THE GOLD GAMES
I SAID THAT HELPING SOMEONE LIKE THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE; EVEN THOUGH THE COMPANY SAID THEY WOULD HELP PAY, BUT SHE
What about Ayumi?
LOOKS LIKE I'M TOTALLY HATED BY HER
I'VE BEEN DUMPED BY HER BEAUTIFULLY
SHION, FOR YOUR SECOND GAME, YOUR OPPONENT IS HONMA SUO.
Ayumi ...

"A GENIUS BOY VS THE TRAGIC BEAUTIFUL GIRL!"
AH, THAT KID WHO BEAT MURATA 9-DAN?
THE MEDIA WILL BE WATCHING THIS CLOSELY.
.....
THERE WILL BE REPORTERS ASKING QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS AFTERWARD.
SO GOOD LUCK!

Is there something wrong with Ayumi-kun's mother?
And what do I do with the cookies I brought for her?
No
What more can I do...?
THIS IS AMAZING!
YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE SHRINE FROM HERE!

OH!

Hi, I
am Shion.

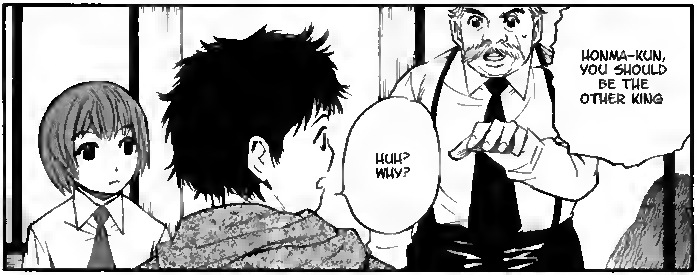
ARE YOU SHION?
SHION'S HERE!

HEY! I AM HONMA SUO.
I'M IN THE 5TH GRADE

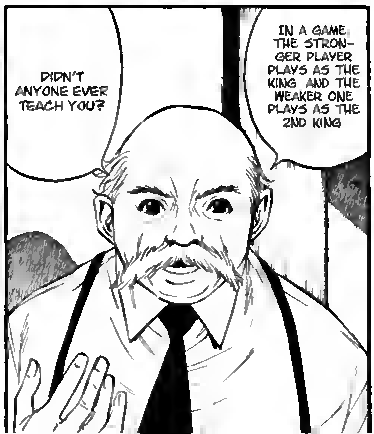
AH, ARE THE INTRODUCTIONS OVER?
I'M SO HAPPY THAT I CAN PLAY WITH SHION.
I'm happy too.
SHION, THIS IS ALSO YOUR FIRST TIME PLAYING AGAINST SOMEONE YOUNGER THAN YOU.
THERE'S AN AURA OF OLDER SISTER AROUND YOU

I feel bad for those chess pieces...
What a rough way of treating your pieces!

Ah...


HONMA-KUN, YOU SHOULD BE THE OTHER KING
HUH? WHY?

DIDN'T I JUST BEAT SOMEONE EARLIER?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN STRONGER OR WEAKER? WE HAVEN'T EVEN PLAYED YET


DIDN'T ANYONE EVER TEACH YOU?
IN A GAME THE STRONGER PLAYER PLAYS AS THE KING AND THE WEAKER ONE PLAYS AS THE 2ND KING

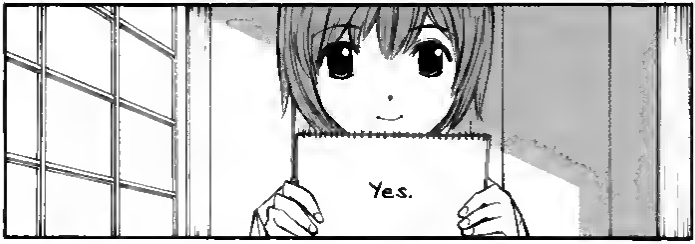
CHESS STILL HAS SUCH FRUSTRATING RULES, EH?
HUH?
SHION IS THE ORIGINAL PLAYER AND YOU ARE THE CHALLENGER, NO?
THIS IS JUST TO BE POLITE
OH OKAY...
I'VE ALWAYS PLAYED CHESS ONLINE
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE PLAYED A PERSON FACE-TO-FACE.

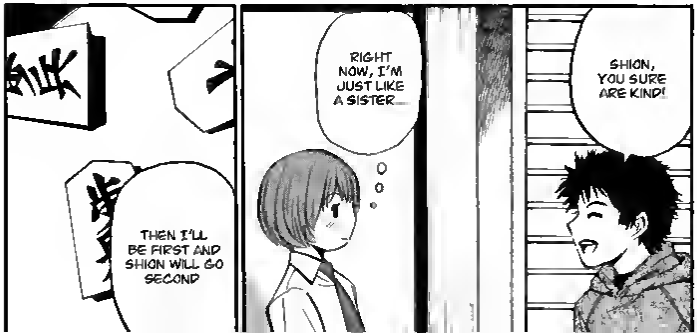
I KNEW THAT THESE COMPETITIONS WEREN'T SUITABLE FOR HIM, HOWEVER, I DIDN'T THINK THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST TIME PLAYING
THAT SURE DID SCARE ME
IN A GAME WHERE THE CHESS PIECES ARE ONLY PLACED, IT DOESN'T MATTER AS MUCH. IT JUST ALLOWS THEM TO TELL WHO'S STRONGER AND TEACHES THEM HOW TO PLAY—
IN TODAY'S WORLD, THAT KIND OF STUFF HAPPENS ALL THE TIME

IN THE FIRST GAME HONMA-KUN WAS PLAYING IN, HE USED A TACTIC THAT'S QUITE POPULAR ONLINE.
IF HIS OPPONENT ONLY KNEW, THEN HE WOULDN'T HAVE LOST.
IT'S THE SAME ONLINE AS WELL. THEY HATE A LOT OF THE OLDER PLAYERS.
IT'S OBVIOUS TO BE PROUD WHEN YOU WIN.
SO, YOU CAN STILL TELL BETWEEN THE STRONG AND THE WEAK.
SIGH...
FOR-GET IT. FORGET IT.
I GOT TOO INTO OUR CON-VERSATION.
AH... SORRY!
ONLY THE TWO OF US KNOW SO IT'S OKAY.

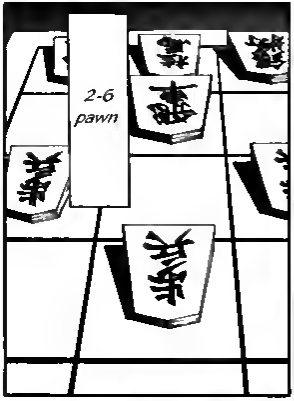
IT'S AS MEIJIN SAID, THE WORLD OF CHESS IS CHANGING...

THEN CAN I BE THE FIRST KING!?


Yes.


SHION, YOU SURE ARE KIND!
RIGHT NOW, I'M JUST LIKE A SISTER...
THEN I'LL BE FIRST AND SHION WILL GO SECOND

HAVE A GOOD GAME!

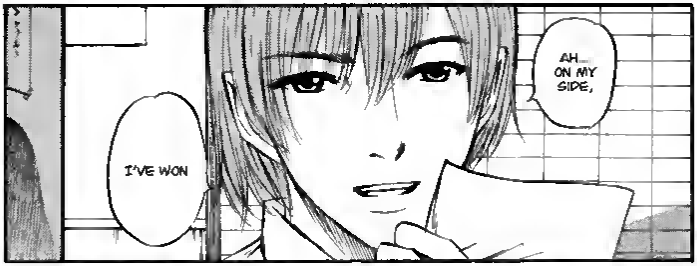

2-6 pawn

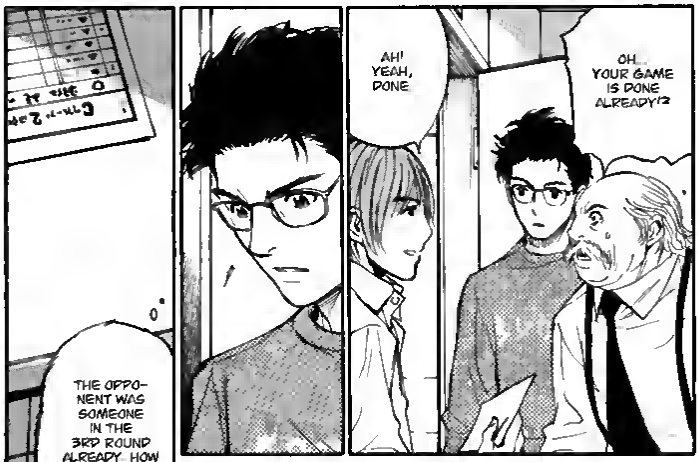
What should I do?

In the first game, he used the rook to win.

Well, let's just watch for now.
HMM
OKAY
So she's not the type who takes time to think about moves.
But I still can't get too confident.

HOW IS THE GAME OF SHION VERSUS THE GENIUS?


AH... ON MY SIDE,
I'VE WON


OH... YOUR GAME IS DONE ALREADY!?
AH! YEAH, DONE.
THE OPPONENT WAS SOMEONE IN THE 3RD ROUND ALREADY. HOW DID HE WIN WITHIN THE HOUR!?

THE GAME WAS ONLY VERSUS SOMEONE IN THE 3RD ROUND.
PLUS, SHE WASN'T A GOOD CHESS PLAYER SO IT WAS EASY.
.....
HOW IS SHION'S GAME?
THEY SHOULD STILL BE TESTING EACH OTHER.
REALLY...
THEN THE DRAW WILL STILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL LATER

IT'S NORMALLY DONE ONLY RIGHT BEFORE THE MATCH.
IN CASE A CAMERA IS INVOLVED,
ARE YOU GOING TO BE REPORTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MATCH?
YES. ANYTHING WRONG?
.....
THAT SORT OF THING WOULD ATTRACT LOTS OF ATTENTION WHEN PUBLISHED IN A NEWSPAPER OR A MAGAZINE, RIGHT?
THE FIREWORKS GOING OFF BETWEEN THE TWO, POP POP! OR SOMETHING.
WAIT, BUT I NEED A PICTURE FULL OF TENSION!
A Sleeve Rook could be interesting move here...

But... what's wrong here?
There's a heavy feeling in my heart...
7-2 ROOK...
NOT MANY PEOPLE DO THAT.
FORGET IT. IT'S FINE

How should I play ...
Against someone who can see through the chess moves?
In this game, there's something missing
It's not the difference between a strong and weak player. There's something else here...

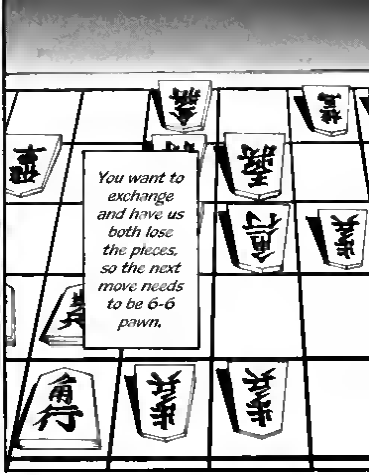
That's your finishing move?
FAST MOVES ARE MY STRONG POINT!
AH-AH... THIS IS MORE BORING THAN I THOUGHT
6-6 silver
Then I'll do 6-4 pawn, he'll check me with his pawn then I'll use my silver. He'll counter with 6-5 pawn, then I'll attack with 5-5 silver!

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT HAND, ISN'T IT?
IF THAT WAS ME, I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
AH, 6-4 PAWN!?
NOW IT'S GETTING INTERESTING
COMPLETE EXCHANGE
What an amazing comeback!

Move your knight? Or your silver?
How are you going to respond?
I'LL SACRIFICE MY KNIGHT, THEN I'LL MOVE MY 5-5 KNIGHT
Kuku... I've seen right through you.

No-

I need to do this.


You want to exchange and have us both lose the pieces, so the next move needs to be 6-6 pawn.

AIYA! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SHOULD I USE THE ROOK TO BEAT IT, OR SHOULD I USE THE SILVER OR GOLD

SHE CAN MAKE THAT KIND OF EXPRESSION TOO
THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PLAYING ONLINE...
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE!

SHION
LOOK HERE.
ピク
ピク

王様

YOU REMEMBER THIS?
THE KING ENGRAVED ON THE FOREHEAD...

NOT LONG AGO, WHEN I WAS PLAYING AGAINST SOMEONE ON THE INTERNET, THE OPPONENT SAID...
TO CARVE A KING SYMBOL ON MY HEAD-
THAT WOULD BE THE CURSE TO BEAT SHION

Greetings, readers!

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The scanlation of this chapter
was made possible by the dedication
and hard work of the following
people. Thanks guys! ^^

Translator: BlueCloud
Proofreader: Lolikikah
Editor: Nomit
Quality Checker: Tyresonance
TLC: Cmertb

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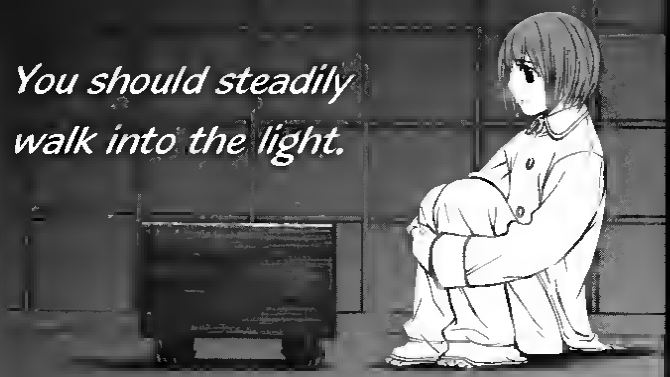
微笑み。

When the obscure darkness has gone,

You should steadily walk into the light.



Chapter 21: Smile

A young genius that has trained online...
He's obtained his skills from training since Secondary school
THIS PERSON'S TOO STRONG. IS HE A PROFESSIONAL?
AH...
I LOST.
NO NAME. HELLO, ARE YOU HONMA SOU?
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE MESSAGED ME.
HMM?
DO YOU KNOW ME?

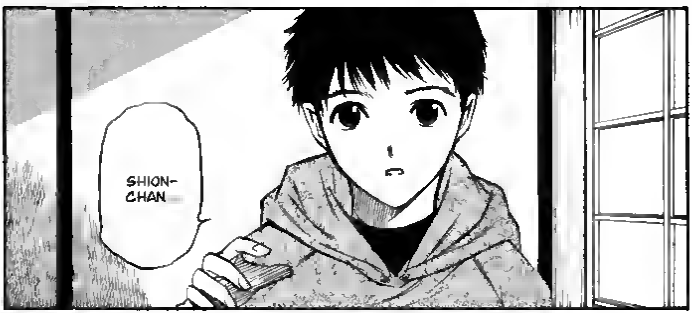
HUH...?
SUO : YES, WHAT'S WRONG?
NO NAME : THE YOU RIGHT NOW CANNOT POSSIBLY BEAT SHION.
WHO IS THIS PERSON?
SHION

DO YOU WANT ME TO TEACH

YOU HOW TO BEAT SHION?

THAT CHARM... IT REALLY WORKED.
That fated night 8 years ago,
Has always been pursuing me.
Again...
...No

I'm sure...It's me who is running away.

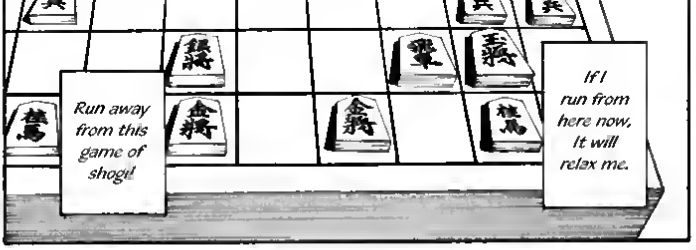

SHION-
CHAN

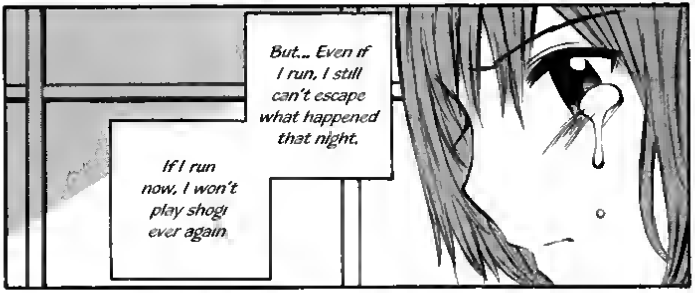
HMM
WHAT'S WRONG HISATANI-KUN? DOES YOUR STOMACH HURT?
HMM
HUH?
EH?
EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE TO WELCOME THE REPORTERS, IT'S STILL TOO STRANGE!
THE OPPONENT IS KOBAYASHI!
CAN YOU GUARANTEE THAT HE WON'T DO SOMETHING STRANGE?
UH
AIYA, IT MIGHT NOT EVEN COME TO THAT.
THEY DON'T EVEN BOTHER THINKING THEY'RE OFFENDING OTHERS!
THEY COME RUSHING IN FOR NO REASON DURING THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME, MAKING ALL THIS NOISE AND TAKING PICTURES.

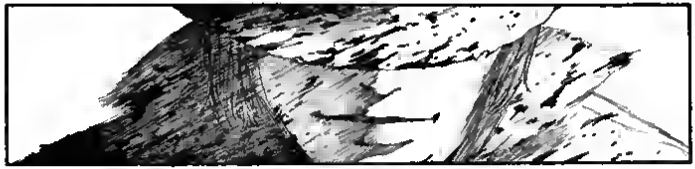
I'M GOING TO GO LOOK AT THE SITUATION!
HEY, HEY HISATANI!
HAH...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I HAVE TO PROTECT SHION

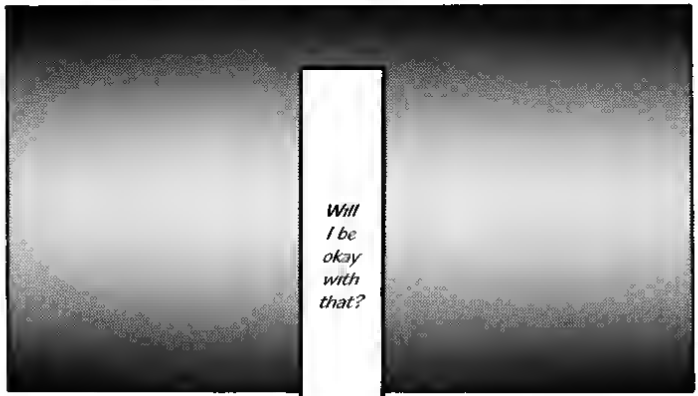
SHION!?
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, I'LL PLAY FIRST INSTEAD OF ASKING.
HER WASTING TIME IS MY CHANCE.
WE JUST GOT HERE. THERE SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING WRONG.
MAYBE SHE'S JUST NERVOUS.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY PULLED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE. HE HASN'T EVEN TAKEN A SINGLE PICTURE YET.
HU...

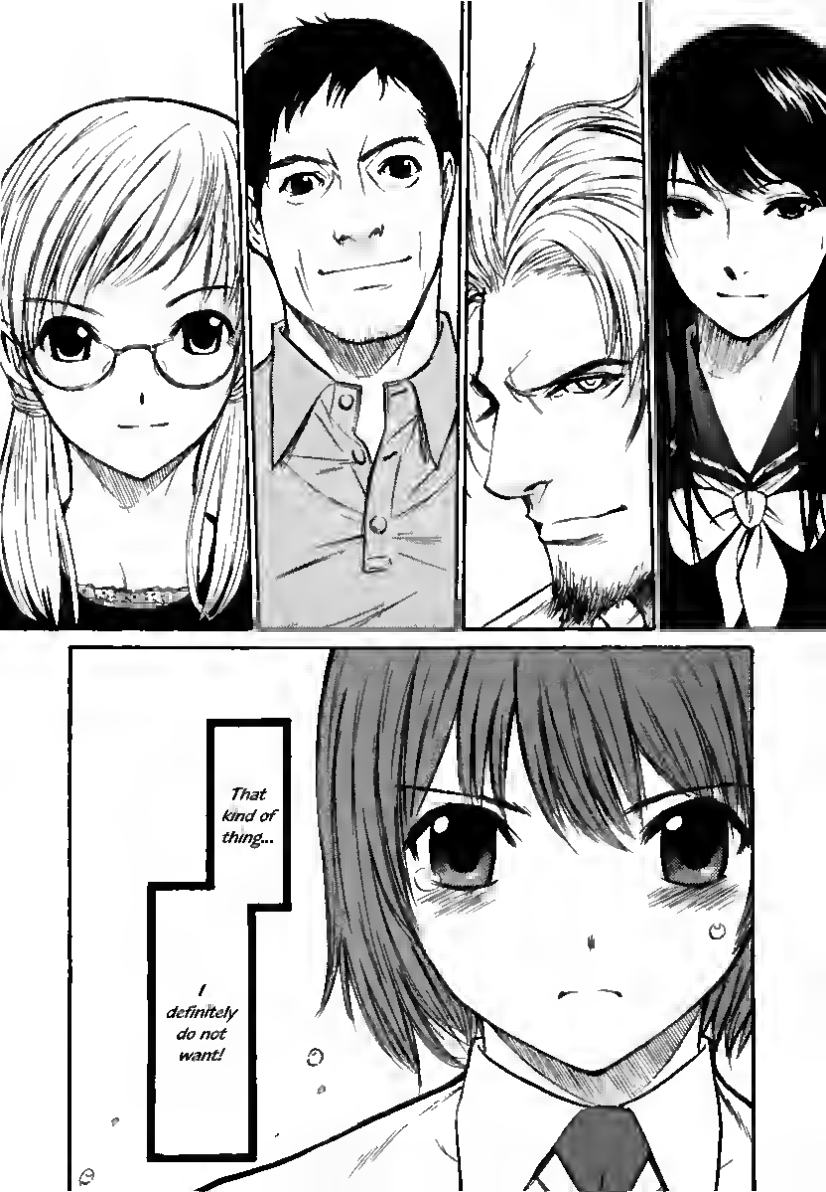
It's my turn
If I'm not quick enough then..
WHAT IS THIS? WHY ISN'T HE NERVOUS AS WELL..
But still.. I am scared!
After looking at the pieces my body just shakes
This is the first time this has happened to me...


Run away from this game of shogi!
If I run from here now, it will relax me.


But... Even if I run, I still can't escape what happened that night.
If I run now, I won't play shogi ever again.




Will I be okay with that?


That kind of thing...
I definitely do not want!

SHE'S STOPPED SHAKING...
The gift mother left for me...
歩兵
王将
The shogi pieces dad left me..
They can give me courage!
So—

I won't run away from playing shogi!

WH-
WHAT...
ISN'T THIS JUST A GAME!?
HEH
I THOUGHT SHE WOULD DO THAT
7-6 PAWN
銀將
王將

THEN I'M GOING TO USE 5-5 BISHOP!!
BLACK 5-5 BISHOP... THE SHION RIGHT NOW, WILL SHE SEE THROUGH THIS MOVE?
WHAT IS SHE PLANNING ON DOING?
WHATEVER SHE DOES, IT'S GOING TO BE DANGEROUS.

SHION-SAN SEEMS TO HAVE RECOVERED
WHITE 7-1 KING. HMM...
NO HESITATION IN THE MOVE

IT'S TRUE... HER EXPRESSION CHANGED FOR THE BETTER RIGHT AFTER THAT MOVE.

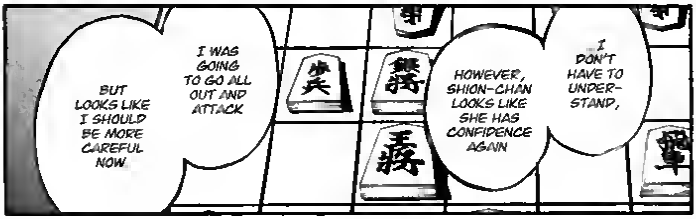
BLACK 5-3 PAWN, WHITE USES BISHOP TO CHASE, BLACK 6-2 SILVER, WHITE 6-2 KING
THEN BLACK WILL PLAY 4-4 BISHOP, THEN WHITE WILL PLAY 5-3 PAWN. SHION SURE IS SERIOUS RIGHT NOW

THERE'S STILL GOING TO BE A FEW DIFFICULT MOVES
BUT THE GAME ISN'T OVER YET

I'M SCARED SHION WILL ALSO EXPECT THOSE FEW MOVES...
WHAT WILL YOU DO?
...OKAY!
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, THE CHARM WORKED
ALSO, AFTER THIS KIND OF SITUATION, TURNING THE GAME AROUND WILL BE HARD FOR HER.
I STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE
AS LONG I KEEP PRESSING HER LIKE THIS, I WILL WIN.

!!
SHION-CHAN IS... SMILING!?
HAS SHE SEEN THROUGH ME!?
FACING THIS KIND OF SITUATION AND BEING ABLE TO SMILE...
SHION-CHAN MUST HAVE ANOTHER PLAY UP HER SLEEVE!

OH...
THE TABLES MIGHT TURN


I DON'T HAVE TO UNDER-STAND,
HOWEVER, SHION-CHAN LOOKS LIKE SHE HAS CONFIDENCE AGAIN
I WAS GOING TO GO ALL OUT AND ATTACK
BUT LOOKS LIKE I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL NOW

EVEN THOUGH I'M MORE CAUTIOUS, I STILL HAVE TO SEE WHAT SHE DOES FIRST
Black 9-1 bishop is...

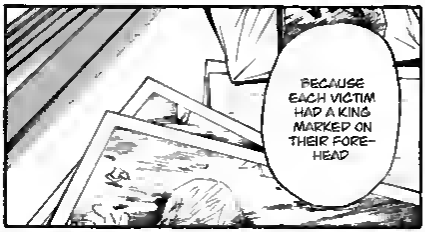
Moving. white 8-2 silver is enough to defend against the attack!
UH...!
NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO ATTACK!?
IT'S DEFINITELY ME!
I'M SUPPOSED TO WIN!
BLACK 9-1 BISHOP WAS A BAD MOVE...
HONMA-KUN

BECAUSE OF SHION'S SMILE, HE LOST HIS COOL.
THIS... PERSON'S STRENGTH
HOWEVER...
DURING HER MATCH, SHE DID FEEL A BIT ANXIOUS
YES IT'S OVER
SHION WON.
AH, SENSEI, IT'S HISATANI-KUN

WANTS TO GO TO THE POLICE STATION.
YES... I'LL GET HER HOME SAFELY.
NO, I'M FINE NOW.
I'm fine now.
I'm
ALSO SHION, SHE...
SATORU
YOU HAVEN'T LEFT.

SHION HAS ALREADY BEAUTIFULLY BEATEN HONMA-KUN.
...REALLY.
AYE, TRUTHFULLY SAID, I'M MORE RELAXED NOW.
WE CAN FINALLY SHOW THOSE PEOPLE WHAT A TRUE SHOGI PLAYER IS LIKE
MY THOUGHTS ARE SIMILAR TO YOURS
AH, SORRY.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOU SATORU-SAN.
DON'T WORRY I WON'T DWELL ON IT TOO LONG
THE STRONG NEED TO STAY STRONG.

SO HONMA SOU'S "CHARM" WAS TAKEN FROM HIS OPPONENT ONLINE...
THEN THAT PERSON IS THE CRIMINAL


BECAUSE EACH VICTIM HAD A KING MARKED ON THEIR FORE-HEAD

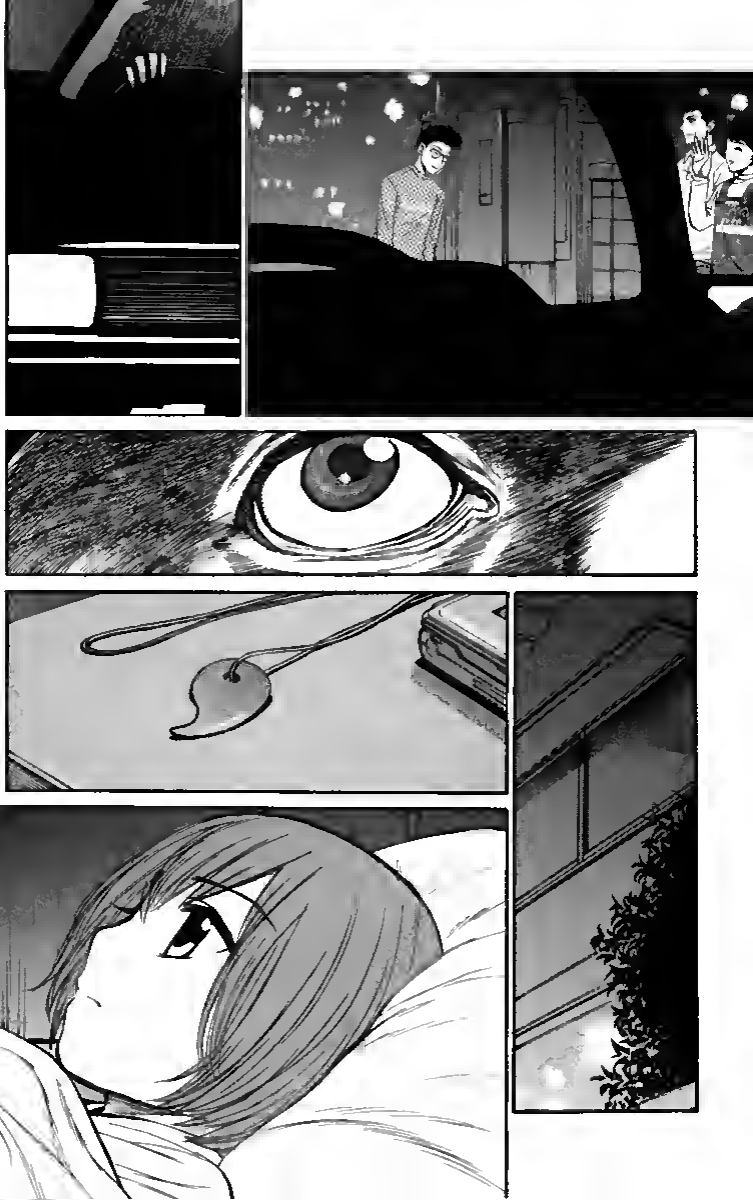
YES... THEY MUST BE THE CRIMINAL.

THIS THING CAN ONLY BE KNOWN BY THE CRIMINAL

DID YOU ASK HONMA-KUN?
YES
WE ASKED HIM SOME SIMPLE QUESTIONS TODAY.
THE PERSON WHOSE PARENTS WERE KILLED IN FRONT OF HER, AND SHOGI PIECES STAINED IN BLOOD
IS NONE OTHER THAN SHION
HMM.
HE OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE "CHARM" MEANT
HE HIMSELF DIDN'T KNOW OF THE SITUATION
I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU.
WE ARE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHO THE PERSON WHO MESSAGED HIM WAS
WE ALSO TALKED TO THE ONLINE GAMESITE

IF WE CAN FIND THE CRIMINAL THROUGH THIS EVIDENCE THEN...
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SMALL IT IS – WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST TO FIND THE CULPRIT.

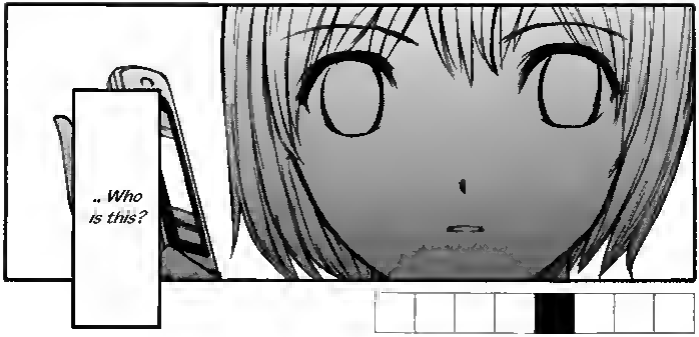
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IT'S GREAT THAT HISATANI-KUN COULD COME?
SHION WAS SUPPOSED TO DROP HER WORK AND RUN HERE TOO
I'M SO SORRY FOR EATING AT YOUR HOME
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TODAY
BUT, DON'T JUST WORRY ABOUT SHION. WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN GAMES AS WELL
YES!



DING
RING
RING

The only people that know the number are father and mother..
Why isn't it a texting sound? why is it the sound of someone calling me?
What if it's Ayumi!?
非通知
That's not right...
AIYA...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I SAW YOU SHION..

ARE YOU STILL PLAYING SHOGI RIGHT NOW?
I'M SO HAPPY.

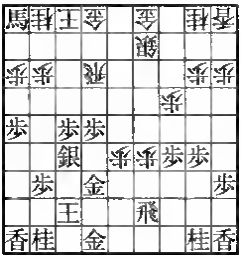

.. Who is this?

対局CHECK！

棋譜・解説　かとりまさる

（第1図は ☖5二飛まで）

（第2図は ☗9一角成四銀まで）



プロを負かした小学生、本間少年の戦略とは!?

元奨励会で、プロ入りを年齢で断念していた瀬川君がアマで優勝し続け、さらにプロテストを受けみごと合格したのを皆さんもご存知でしょう。その瀬川君がインタビューで、中井女流六段に勝てたのが嬉しかったと答えていたのを見て、女流棋士ってホントに強いんだと実感。

さて、紫音は本間少年の言葉で動揺しましたが、☗5五角に対して☖同飛（第1図）の局面で気を落ち着けました。

どちらを持ってもまだ難しい局面です。紫音は本間少年の言葉で動揺し、自分のほうが不利かと思っていましたが、第1図から☗8二銀には落ち着いて、☖7二王と上がれば悪くない、ということに気づいたので、ニッコリ微笑んだのでした。逆に「おまじない」が効いたと楽観していた本間少年は、紫音の笑顔に動揺していろんな手がある局面なのに（第2図）☗9一角成と指してしまいました。

第2図で☖8二銀と打たれては手が続きません。

ネット将棋では味わうことのできない人間同士の戦い。チャットで言葉を交わしても、勝負の実感は希薄です。

本間少年は、紫音の空気を読めなかったのが敗因とも言えるでしょう。

天才少年で、いくら将棋が強くても、集中力のバランスの取り方は紫音のほうが上手だったようです。本間少年は、1回戦、男性プロに勝ちましたが、男性プロは、相手が子供だということでナメてかかりすぎたのが敗因でした。

要するに、どんな相手でも平常心でいることができる人が強い、ということでしょう。

紫音はどこまで平常心を保ち勝ち続けていけるのか、お楽しみに。

小林■前回の女流トーナメントのスポンサー・携帯電話会社デジタルフォン社員Ⅱ

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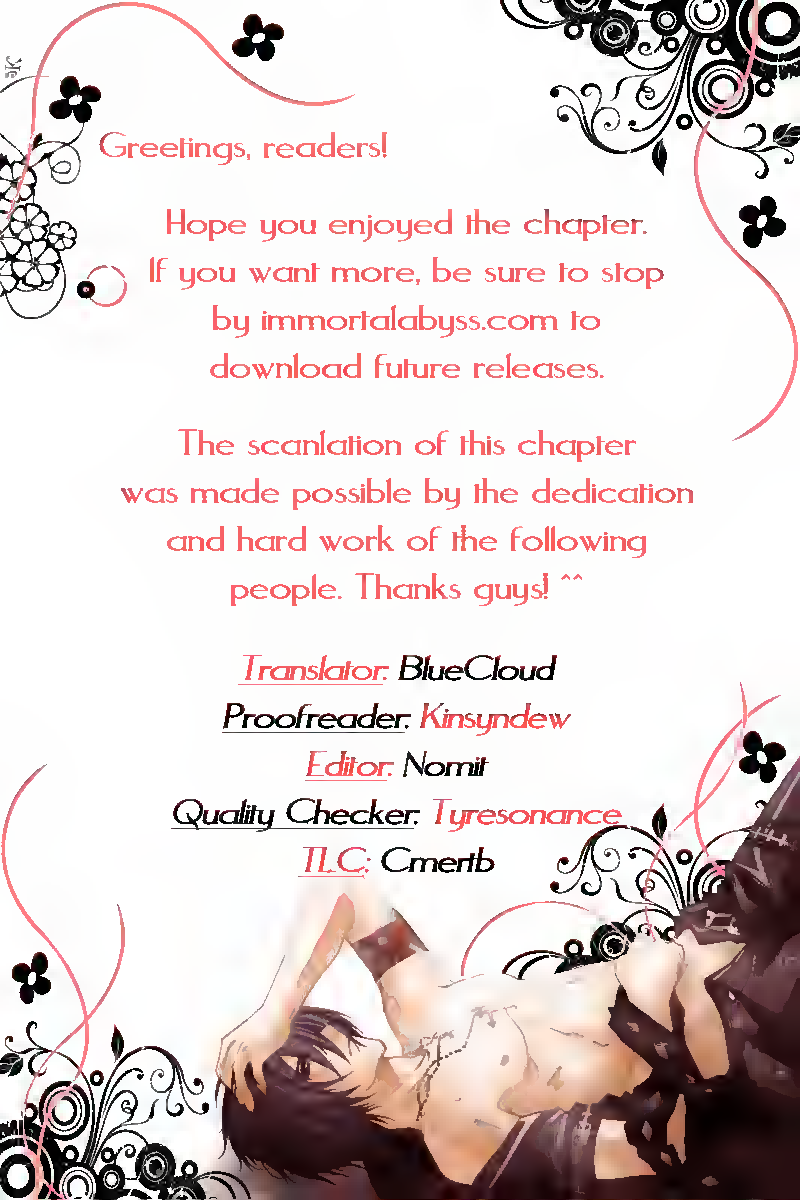

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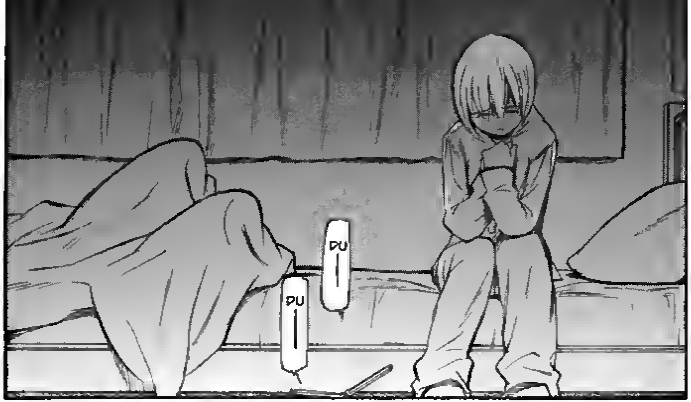
Chapter 22: Regret

Who!?
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN WATCHING YOU.
.....
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME SHION?
BUT EVEN IF YOU WERE, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO REPLY.

Who is this ...!?
I DON'T KNOW WHEN WE CAN MEET AGAIN.
JUST LIKE THAT NIGHT...

I just... I said some-thing-
..YOU BROKE OUR AGREEMENT
SHION...
!!
You have to forget how to speak.
WHO...
IS IT...?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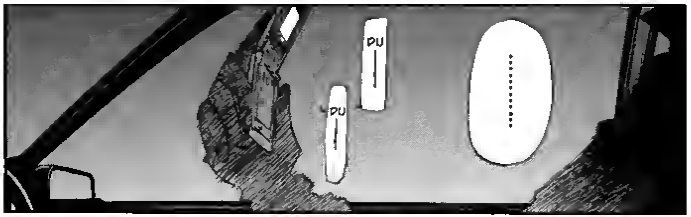
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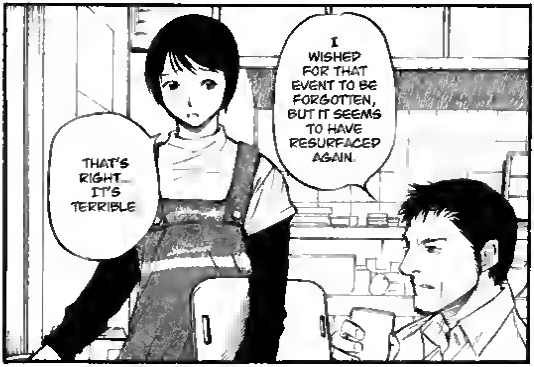
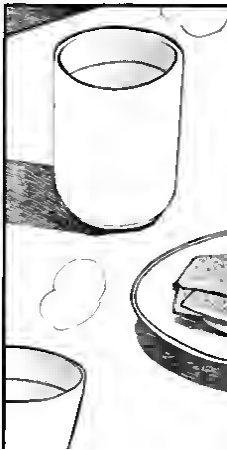

I WISHED FOR THAT EVENT TO BE FORGOTTEN, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE RESURFACED AGAIN.
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S TERRIBLE

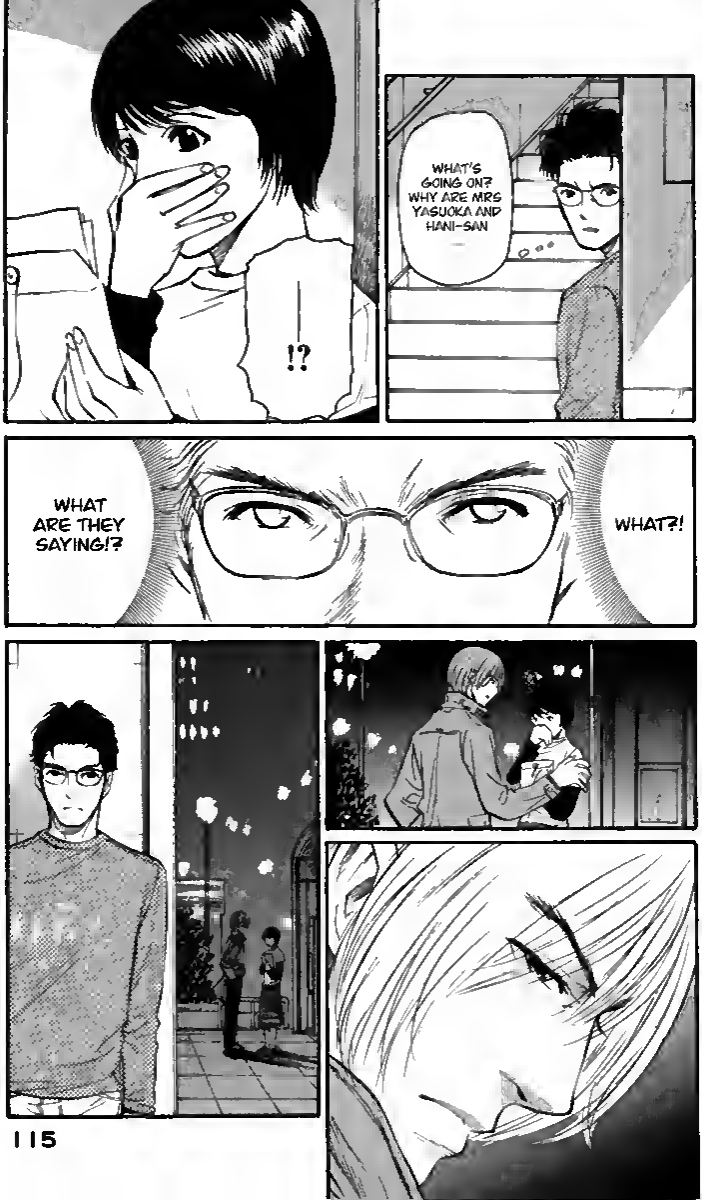


THAT'S RIGHT... THAT CHILD HAS BECOME STRONG.
BUT SHION WON'T LOSE,
HOW WAS HISATANI? PRETTY STRONG, RIGHT?
THREE ROUNDS IN THE COMPETITION IS PRETTY STRONG, RIGHT?
YEAH.
Ring
HE'S ALMOST REACHED THE AGE LIMIT FOR THE AWARD.
BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, HE NEEDS TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL.
WHO COULD IT POSSIBLY BE? IT'S SO LATE.
Ring
IF IT'S THE COPS, LET ME HANDLE IT.

HUH?
HELLO, YASUOKA RESIDENCE
YES
YES ..
OH REALLY
I UNDER-STAND
I'M GONNA GO OUT TO BUY SOMETHING AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE
WHAT HAP-PENED?
NO... NOTHING
NOTHING REALLY, IT'S MY... FRIEND

AH,
I MIGHT HAVE DROPPED MY PHONE
AH... IT CAN'T BE TRUE
CRAP!
WHERE COULD IT HAVE FALLEN?
WHAT IF IT FELL IN THE TAXI?

HUH?
WELL, I SHOULD GO TO THE YASUOKA RESIDENCE TO CHECK IT OUT FIRST.
IT'S MRS. YASUOKA. WHAT'S WRONG?
?
HANI... SAN!?


!?
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE MRS YASUOKA AND HANI-SAN
WHAT ARE THEY SAYING!?
WHAT?!

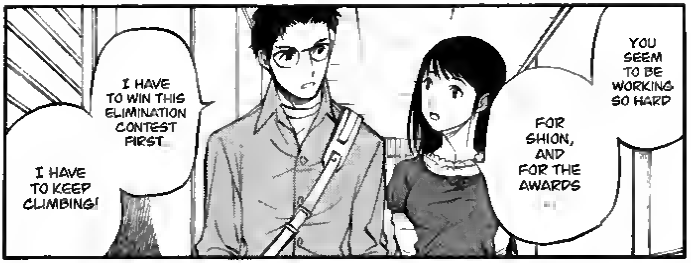
……
将棋協
京戸七段
山中五段
久谷三段
菅沢七段
HISATANI'S OPPONENT IS SUGAKIWA.
THIS IS THE 3RD ROUND. THESE ARE ALL GOOD COMPETITORS, SO I CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THEM.
NIKAIDOU-SAN, ARE YOU HERE TO RESEARCH THE ART OF SHOGI? QUITE ENTHUSIASTIC, EH?
GOOD MORNING

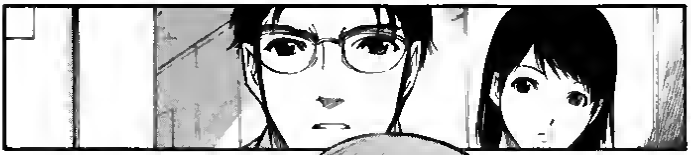
IS THAT SO...
IS HISATANI HERE?
NO... I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT HAPPENED?
NOTHING MUCH!
NOTHING MUCH, REALLY.
.....?

HISATANI, GOOD MORNING.
.....
WHY WERE THE TWO OF THEM OUT SO LATE?

AH SAORI,
HISATANI!
GOOD MORNING

WAS IT ABOUT TODAY'S GAME?
SORRY, I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT
NO...
IT'S, QUITE COMPLI-CATED

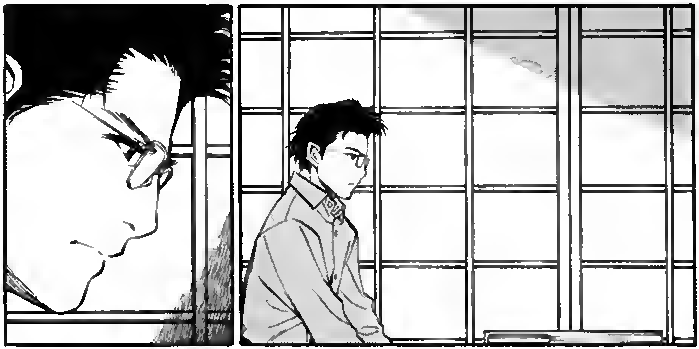

I HAVE TO KEEP CLIMBING!
I HAVE TO WIN THIS ELIMINATION CONTEST FIRST.
FOR SHION, AND FOR THE AWARDS
YOU SEEM TO BE WORKING SO HARD

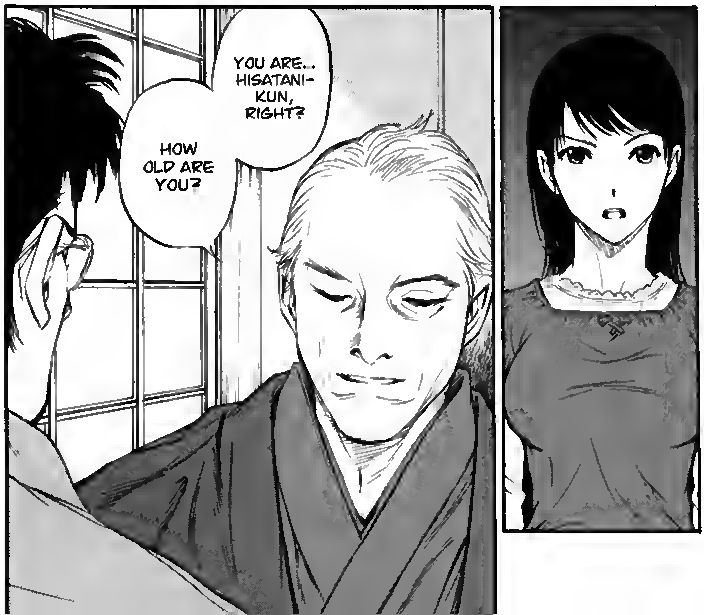


HIKITANI IS IT YOUR 3RD ROUND?
YES
AH, DID YOU TWO COME TOGETHER?
NO HISATANI HAS A MATCH, I'M HERE TO LEARN
AT THIS POINT IN THE ELIMINATION ROUNDS, ALL THE SHOGI PLAYERS SHOULD BE PROFESSIONAL,
JUST LIKE US THERE'S QUITE A BIT OF PRESSURE, TO BE HONEST
HISATANI IF YOU GET ELIMINATED, IS IT OKAY?
ISN'T THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR THE AWARD?
AH, SO SORRY I FORGOT FEMALES ALSO ARE PROFES-SIONALS
.....

ARE YOU GONNA GIVE UP AT THIS POINT?
OR,
.....
FORGET IT, LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST.
NO...
HANI-SAN IS ALWAYS LIKE THAT
DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART
IT'S JUST AS HE SAID ...

TO ME, RIGHT NOW, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THE THREE ROUND ROBIN COMPETITION.
IF I DON'T CLIMB TO THE 4TH ROUND, NO ONE WILL RECOGNIZE ME...!
YOU'VE ALREADY ENTERED THE 3RD ROUND, MASTER WILL DEFINITELY BE HAPPY
AS FOR YOU, YOU'VE DONE QUITE WELL ALREADY
REALLY?
IF YOU USE THAT KIND OF ATTITUDE TO PLAY SHOGI,
WILL YOU REALLY GET SENSEI'S APPROVAL AND COMPLIMENTS?
SAORI...




YOU ARE.. HISATANI-KUN, RIGHT?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?

23 YEARS OLD IS STILL QUITE YOUNG...
23 YEARS OLD
IN THE SHOGI WORLD, YOU CAN'T SAY THAT ANYMORE
IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT ISN'T IT? THE 3RD ROUND OF THE COMPE-TITION
...THAT'S RIGHT
AS FOR YOUR ABILITY THAT HAS SUPPORTED YOU TO THIS POINT,
IF YOU DON'T CALM YOUR HEART AND TRY YOUR BEST TO WIN
HOW-EVER,
EVEN IF YOU BECAME A SHOGI WARRIOR, YOUR HEART WILL STAY THE SAME

SO,
YOU HAVE TO USE THAT KIND OF MENTALITY WHEN YOU CONTINUE ON THIS PATH.
SENSEI
REALLY...
THIS KIND OF ELIMI-NATION COMPE-TITION,
AS SOON AS YOU SHOW A WEAK POINT YOU CAN'T WIN
SAORI,

HOW WAS HISATANI THIS MORNING?
AH... HE SEEMED A LITTLE OUT OF IT.
IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE WANTED TO WIN.
REALLY?
WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WRONG...?
WHEN HISATANI WENT TO PLAY THAT TIME,
SAORI DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID?
BECAUSE HE IS TRAINING TO BE THE BEST-
THAT COMMENT INSPIRED HIM HE HAS IMPROVED A LOT.

HE'S NOT GOING FOR THE AWARDS,
BUT RATHER, FOR THE GAMES AND TO IMPROVE HIMSELF AND HIS ABILITY TO PLAY
.....
REALLY !
SO THAT WAS THE REASON. WHY CAN'T HE JUST ENJOY HIMSELF THEN!
AFTER HANI-SAN TALKED TO HIM, HE JUST SHELLED BACK UP

IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THERE'S NO POINT IN THIS GAME ANYMORE
!?

WH... WHAT? HIS EXPRESSION IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THIS MORNING!
WAS I SCARED FOR NOTHING?
HOW DOES THE BOARD LOOK...?
.....

...IS THIS THE EPITOME OF YOUR RESEARCH?
YES

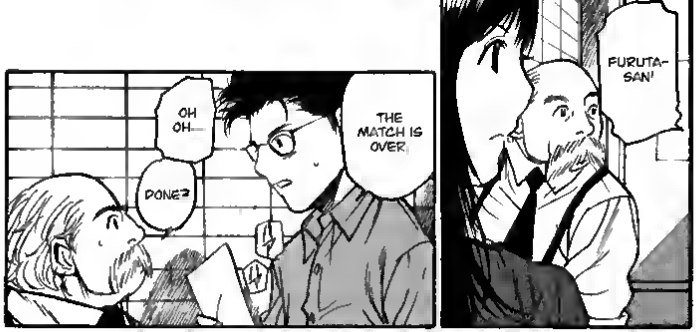
SO, MY STRATEGY IS USELESS?
HMM...

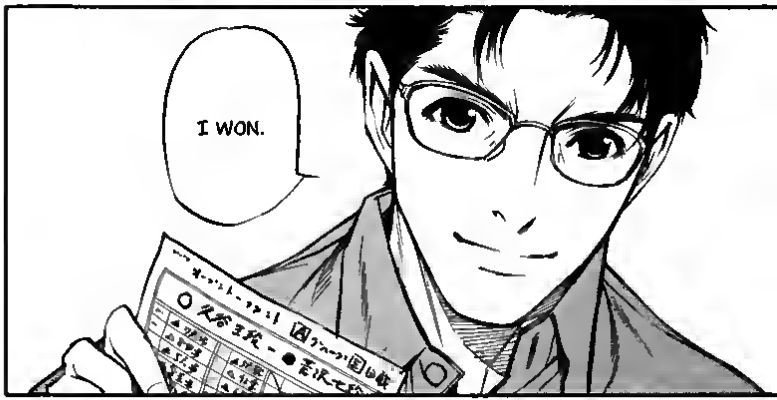
IS THIS YOUR MOVE HISATANI-KUN?
THAT IS AN INTERESTING POSITION...

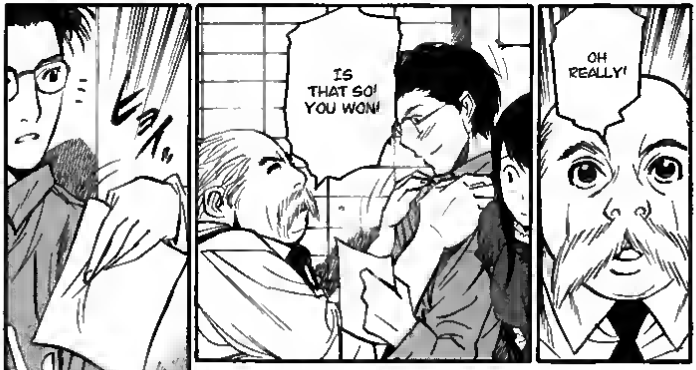
WHITE 9-4 PAWN
パシッ!
IN THIS GAME, I HAVE TO MOVE BLACK 7-9 HORSE
THEN IT'S BLACK 2-5 SILVER AND BLACK 1-5 PAWN. THEN I'LL USE BLACK 3-6 ROOK.
NO, NO, BLACK 6-9 HORSE I'LL FIRST DO BLACK 3-6 ROOK, THEN USE BLACK 1-5 PAWN!
!

AS EACH GAME GOES ON.
I HAVE TO THINK OF EACH STEP LIKE THIS,
FROM NOW ON
I USED TO THINK THAT PROTECTING THE KING WAS A WEAK MOVE
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE, EVERYTHING IS GENERALLY BEING PROTECTED!

HOW IS HISATANI'S GAME?
WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN.
♪♪♪
?


FURUTA-SAN!
THE MATCH IS OVER!
OH OH...
DONE?

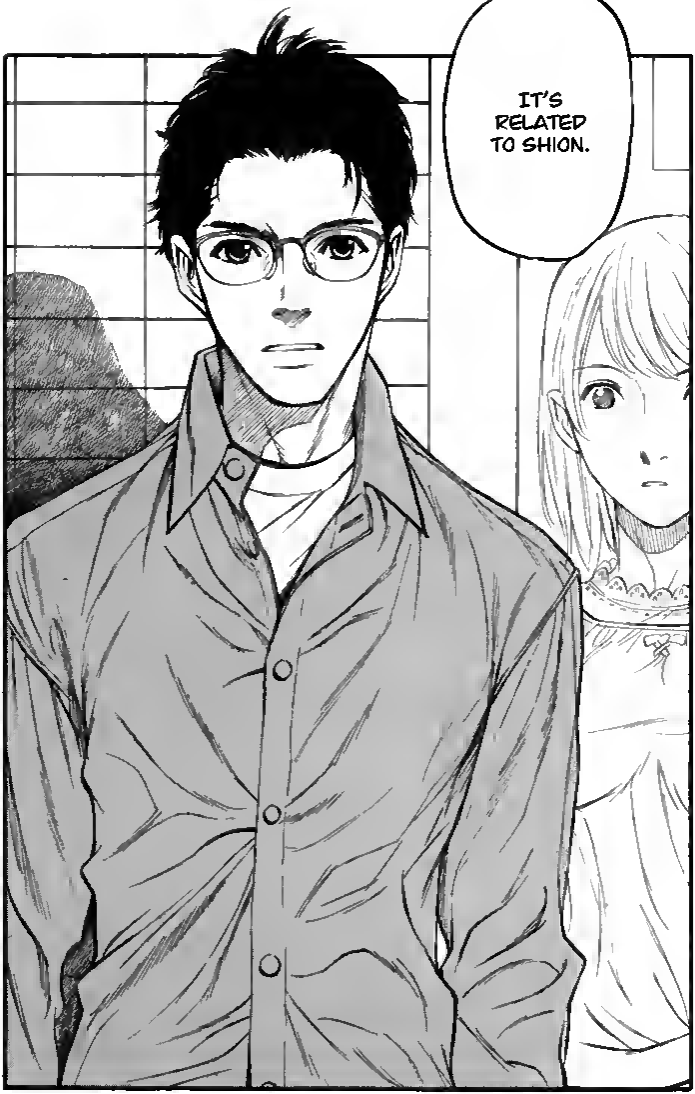

I WON.


IS THAT SO! YOU WON!
OH REALLY!

HMM.
YES!
SAORI...
HM...
BUT THAT SEEMED TO BE A BAD MOVE
HUH!? WHAT MOVE?

IT'S NOT ONLY DANGEROUS, IT MIGHT HAVE CHANGED THE GAME'S OUTLOOK
AHH AHH-!
IF I HAD BEEN EATEN BY WHITE 7-1 KING, THEN THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN SOME DANGER
AH! THAT MOVE
HERE.. THE 68TH MOVE
ARE YOU HISATANI-SAN?
THE POLICE ..?

HISATANI-SAN YOU LOST YOUR PHONE, RIGHT?
YES. WE ARE CONTACTS OF YASUOKA-SENSEI, WE'VE MET A FEW TIMES.
THEN WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS MORNING SOME WORKERS FOUND IT AT THE ENTRANCE OF THIS PLACE
I WAS GOING TO GIVE IT TO YOU, HOWEVER, THE POLICE CONTACTED ME
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS TO ASK YOU.
YESTERDAY NIGHT, THERE WAS A CALL FROM YOUR PHONE


IT'S RELATED TO SHION.

Greetings, readers!

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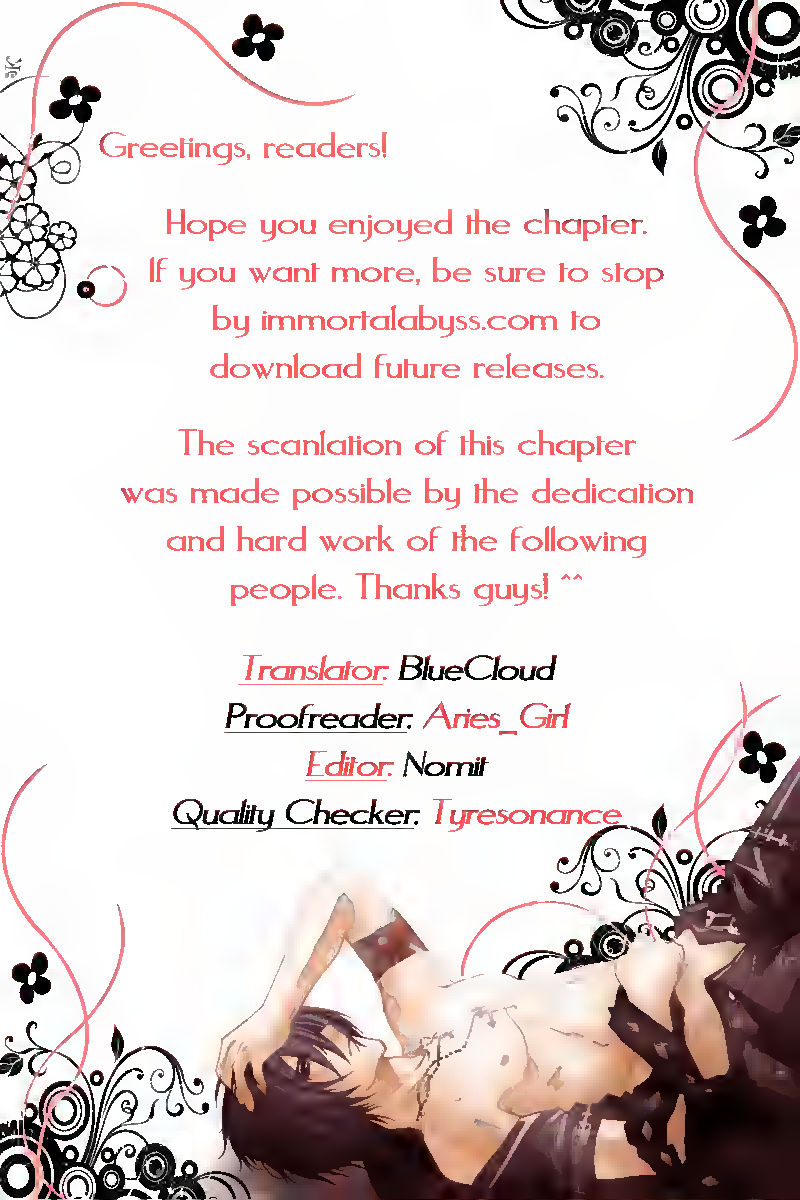
Quality Checker: Tyresonance



IMMORTAL ABYSS IS RECRUITING!

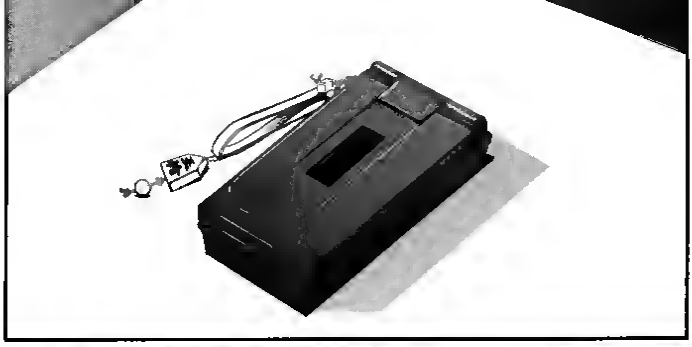
WE ARE LOOKING FOR SCANLATORS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS! COME JOIN US SO WE CAN SCANLATE MORE AWESOME SERIES FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

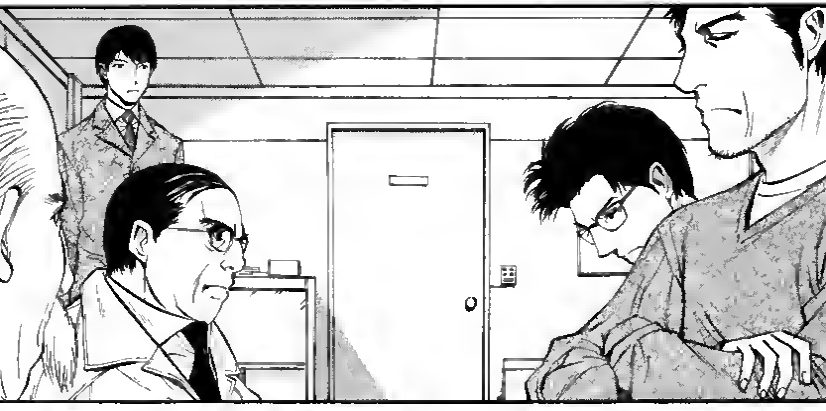
TRANSLATOR: CHINESE, JAPANESE OR KOREAN. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

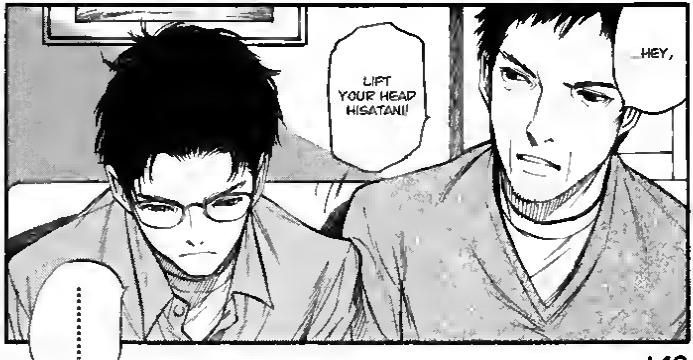
TYPESETTER: MUST KNOW HOW TO PLACE TEXT WITHIN BUBBLES. EXPERIENCE PREFERRED.

QC: MUST BE ABLE TO PROOFREAD AND CHECK EDITING ERRORS. EXPERIENCE REQUIRED.

Chapter 23:
A Heart That Won't Accept Defeat






LIFT YOUR HEAD HISATANI!!
HEY,
.....

...YES
HISATANI... THIS IS YOUR CELL PHONE?
FROM THE RECORDS, YESTERDAY AT 8.45 PM, YOU CALLED SHION.
THE TIME THAT HISATANI LEFT YASUOKA'S HOUSE WAS
WAS AROUND 8:30
HE LEFT EARLIER BECAUSE OF A MATCH TODAY.
SO SAY AT 8 45, DID YOU ARRIVE AT THE STATION ALREADY?

SEEMS ABOUT RIGHT...
THEN? DID YOU GET ON THE TRAM-
I GOT OFF AT 9:13.
I WENT TO LOOK AT BOOKS!
...AT THE CONVE-NIENCE STORE
FROM THE TIME YOU GOT ON TO THE TIME YOU GOT OFF SEEMS TO BE A BIT LONG

.....
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS LOOK AT THE CAMERAS, AND IT'LL BE CLEAR
.....
AFTER I NOTICED I LOST MY CELL, I WENT BACK TO YASUOKA HOUSEHOLD
HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF MY APPREHENSION FOR THE GAME, I SAT ON THE CHAIRS AT THE STATION FOR 30 MINUTES

I UNDER-STAND
OTHER THAN YOUR FINGERPRINTS, HISATANI, THERE AREN'T ANY RECORDS OF ANYONE ELSE
SO WE'LL CONFISCATE YOUR CELL PHONE FOR NOW

THAT!
WHO FOUND MY CELL PHONE THIS MORNING?

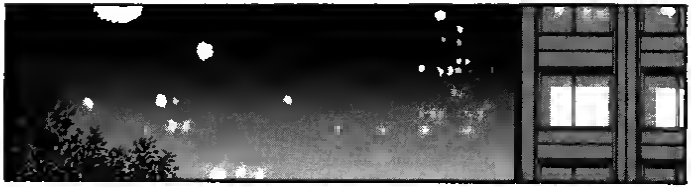
THIS MORNING IT WAS NEAR THE ENTRANCE
MR. HANI FOUND IT, AND GAVE IT TO A WORKER
SATORU... EH?!

DOES IT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH SHION'S PARENTS?
THAT SCARY PHONE CALL,
SENSEI!
HOW WAS THE INTERROGATION OF THE CRIMINAL~
AHH, SAORI,
YASUOKA-SENSEI!

HAVEN'T THERE BEEN SEVERAL OF WEIRD THINGS HAPPENING RECENTLY?
COULD IT BE LIKE BEFORE, AN EVIL PRANK?
EH?
OH, YES.
IF IT WAS A PRANK
THEN IT'D BE FINE.
.....
BUT WHY SHION?
WHY WON'T HER PAIN END?

17
HISATANI.
WELL, THE WAY YOU ARE NOW, YOU MIGHT NEED THIS KIND OF POWER, TOO.
WHY DID YOU LIE TO THE POLICE EARLIER?

IS BECAUSE OF SACHIKO?
LET'S GO!
THEN...
SENSEI.
WE HAVE A CELEBRATION PREPARED FOR YOU.
SHION'S ALSO WAITING FOR YOU.



...IS THAT SO?
THEN THE COPS JUST SAID THAT AND LEFT

AS LONG AS IT'S RELATED TO THIS, NO MATTER HOW SMALL..

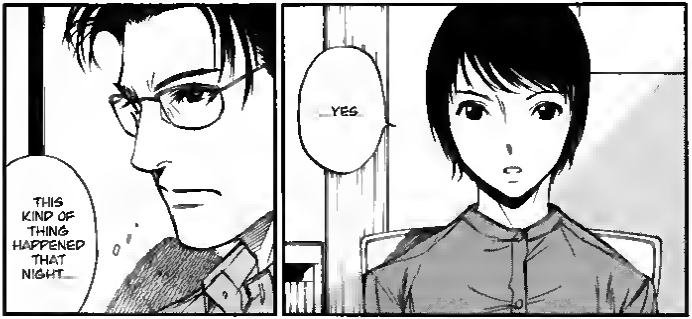
NO..
NEXT TIME SOMETHING HAPPENS, PLEASE INFORM ME AS WELL

LAST NIGHT...
I WAS AT THE STATION MEETING HANI SATORU

.....
IT WAS ABOUT SHION. HE SEEMED TO HAVE OBTAINED A PI TO INVESTIGATE

SHION'S MOTHER, WHO WAS KILLED,
HAD MENTIONED THE NAME "KAZUYOSHI" IN HER DIARY.
AT THAT TIME, THE POLICE THOUGHT IT WAS A FEMALE FRIEND. HOWEVER, AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION-
HE SAID... IT COULD BE MY YOUNGER BROTHER KAZUYOSHI ..

SATORU SAID THIS?

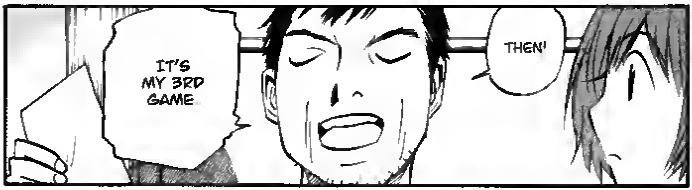

THIS KIND OF THING HAPPENED THAT NIGHT...
...YES.

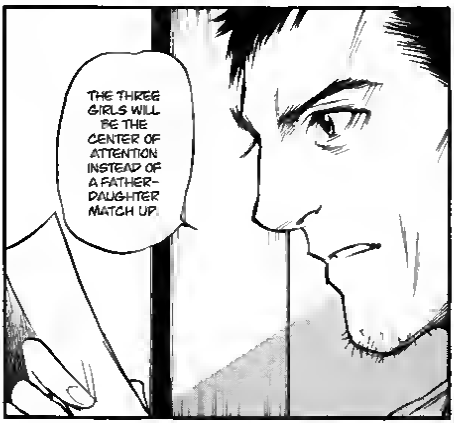
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO KNOW EITHER.
BUT THAT REPORT MIGHT NOT BE 100% TRUE.

BECAUSE I WAS SCARED, I DIDN'T LOOK AT THE REPORT.

LET'S LEAVE THE REST TO THE POLICE.
YES
IS THAT OKAY, SHION?

SHION...


IT'S MY 3RD GAME.
THEN!


THE THREE GIRLS WILL BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION INSTEAD OF A FATHER-DAUGHTER MATCH UP.

EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS.
SHION AND SENSEI ARE PLAYING ON THE SAME DAY.

SHION VERSUS SATORU
MY OPPONENT IS SAITO
SAORI VERSUS MAKOTO ...

SHION...
AHH... KOBAYASHI-SAN
SOMETHING IS AMISS...
THESE BATTLES ARE HAPPENING ON THE SAME DAY, IT MUST BE SOME MEDDLING GUY'S IDEA.
SO SAORI IS GOING AGAINST MAKOTO...

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOUR OPPONENT IS, OR WHAT THEY DO.
YOU CAN'T LET IT CONFUSE OR CLOUD YOUR HEART.

HEART...

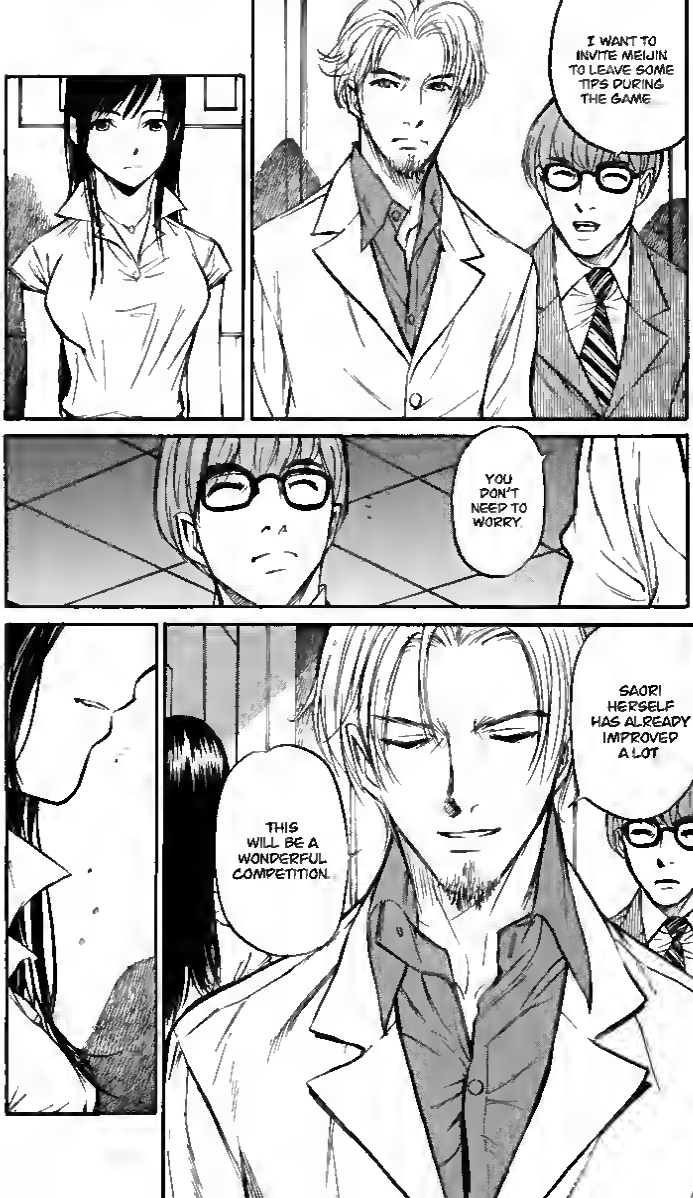
THEN LET'S EAT!
THAT'S RIGHT SHION.

SHION
THIS WAS HOME-MADE!
祝
CONGRATULATIONS HISATANI-ONIICHAN
Thank you for always taking care of me!

IT'S FINE AYUMI...
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL TOMORROW?
AYUMI
TOMORROW YOU HAVE TO PLAY A GOOD GAME!
SHION
DING PING PING
AH...
IT'S OKAY, I'LL STAY A BIT LONGER

A GOOD GAME, HUH...
IT'S JUST LIKE HER TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT
A FRIEND?
IS THAT THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE FLOWERS?
OH YEP
THAT'S GREAT...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
SINCE I SAW YOU SMILE

Makoto
Mejin
Saori
WITH MY SKILLS RIGHT NOW WILL I BE ABLE TO BATTLE MAKOTO?
TODAY'S BATTLE IS "THE THREE WOMEN" SO IT WILL BE BROADCAST LIVE ONLINE!


I WANT TO INVITE MEIJIN TO LEAVE SOME TIPS DURING THE GAME
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY.
SAORI HERSELF HAS ALREADY IMPROVED A LOT
THIS WILL BE A WONDERFUL COMPETITION.

I CAN'T WIN, I DEFINITELY CAN'T WIN!
Smells good.
HUH!?

SHION...
SMELLS GOOD.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME?
The smell of a competition in the morning smells good.
THANK YOU.
It's an adult's smell!

EVERY TIME...
I'VE BEEN DOING THIS SINCE I WAS SMALL.
ON THE DATE OF THE COMPETITION, I WILL USE MY FAVOURITE PERFUME TO BOOST UP MY CONCENTRATION.
IT'S WEIRD... THAT I WOULD REMEMBER SOMETHING LIKE THAT EVEN NOW...

AS LONG AS SHION IS NEXT TO ME, I WON'T HAVE TO WORRY
REALLY, SOMETHING I CAN'T COMFRE-HEND...
?

THEN I'M GOING TO GO PREPARE,
THANK YOU.

Did something happen?
GOOD MORNING SAITO
I WANNA EARN SOME MORE MONEY
SO ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, I'M GOING TO HELP AT A "CHILDREN'S DOJO"
Ayumi
..
I THINK IT'S ALSO A GOOD PLACE FOR ME TO RETHINK MY CHESS STRATEGIES
?
!

Today all 3 of us will win!!
OH!?
YES
OKAY! I WILL TRY MY BEST!
WILL WIN HMM

BUT IF I BEAT YOUR FATHER, IS THAT OKAY?
Good luck to both of you!
CARRYING SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN ON HER BACK, AND FACING SO MANY HORRORS,
SHE STILL MOVES FORWARD WITHOUT GIVING UP

SHION CAN TURN THAT PAIN AND SUFFERING INTO A SMILE

TODAY WE WILL BROADCAST,
THE THREE OF YOU LIVE DIRECTLY TO OUR COMPANY

SO, EVERYONE IS HERE, THAT'S GOOD

THEN LETS TAKE A QUICK PICTURE.
SO TODAY, THE CELL PHONE WILL BE MY CAMERA.
I BROUGHT A CAMERAMAN THE LAST TIME, AND HISATANI-SAN GOT MAD,

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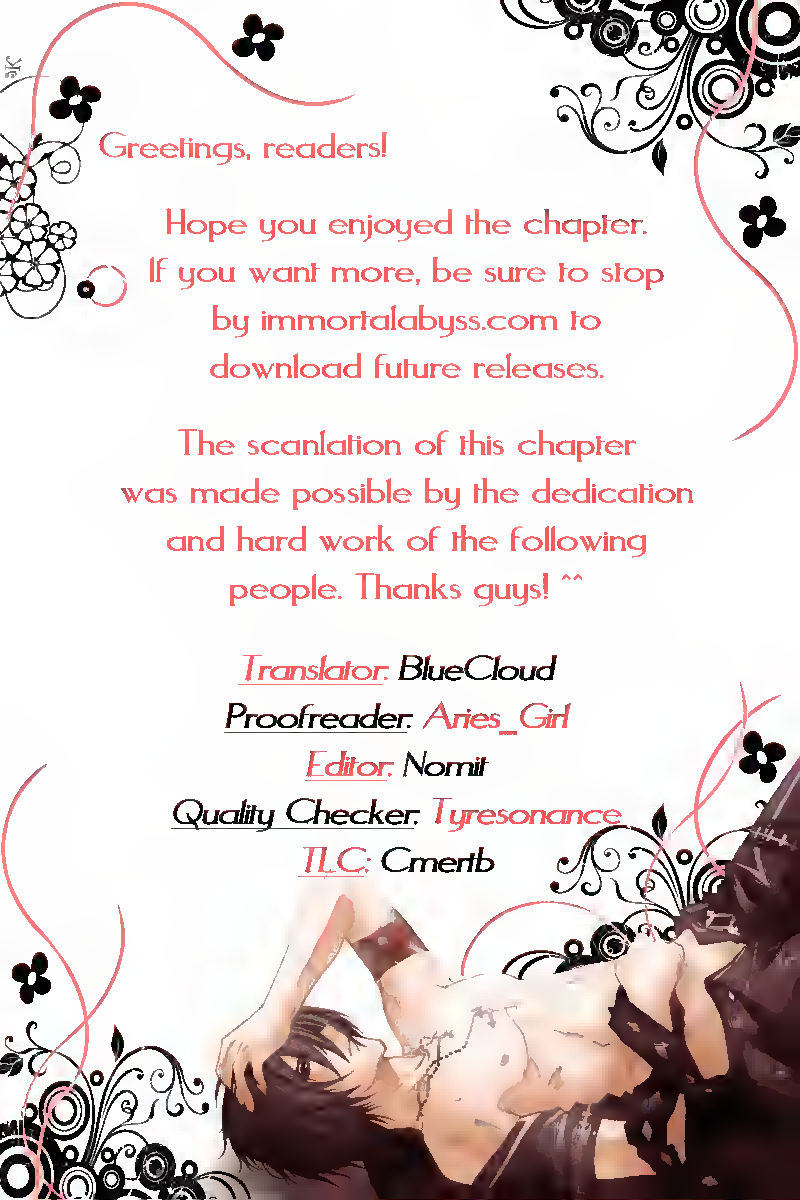


It is pefectly enticing
and adorably cute..
Oh yes, this is the type of project I wanted..
Don't worry, we will find people to help us...
I'll be taking good care of this little guy.
WE CAN'T GO PICKING PROJECTS WITHOUT HAVING THE STAFF FOR IT!
We don't have enough editors for this project...
Are you sure?
So please apply on our forum! You know you want to...
We need scanners, translators, cleaners, typesetters, editors, and QCs!
www.otakudevotees.forumotion.com
http://www.mangahighway.net/

Chapter 24:
Thoughts From
a Fox's Heart

ドン

王将

AHHH? THAT'S WEIRD
ONLY THE KING IS ON THE OUTSIDE.
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WANTS TO PLAY, DOESN'T IT?
HA HA HA!
.....
DON'T LET THIS AFFECT YOU.

Why does this guy want to pick on me?
It's not just me... people around him as well...
In the game against Ayumi-kun that I saw before,
You were strong, Satoru-san
I want to have a match against that you..

Unfortunately I only get to do this—
AIYA, IT'S ME FIRST
THEN,
パチ!
!?
Black 7-6 pawn... I opened up a path.
Then I will do this!

THEN... HMMM,
I THINK I'M GOING TO GO SEE BIG BROTHER'S GAME FOR A LITTLE BIT
SHION, PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME.
What is he thinking exactly?
Should I play it safe or should I try something riskier..
No, I can't think too much.
Him leaving has to be a battle plan!
It's to confuse me...

If that's the case then-
I'll bravely move forward!

AIYA, ISN'T THIS GREAT?
THIS IS A SUCCESS, "THE BATTLE OF THE 3 GREAT WOMEN"!! THIS WAS MY PLAN ALL ALONG
SUCCESS... DIDN'T IT JUST START?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LOOK AT THE VIEWERS.

HMM!?
I'LL BE SNAPPING THEM WITH THIS GUY...
REQUESTS FOR PICTURES ARE PILING UP TOO
A really hot one!
FROM UPLOADING KIFU TO RESPONDING ON THE FORUMS I'LL BE SUPER BUSY NOW!
.....
IT'S SATORU-SAN

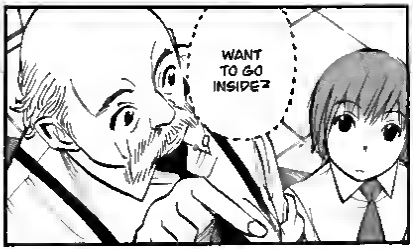
SHOULD HE STILL BE IN A GAME?
CAN HE LEAVE THE ROOM?
IF IT'S HIS MOVE, HE'S ALLOWED TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS IT'S A CHESS WARRIOR'S FREEDOM.
TO RELIEVE STRESS, HE CAN ALSO TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE
AS LONG AS IT'S NOT ABOUT THE GAME
ESPECIALLY DURING THE DECIDING MOVE, SEVERAL PEOPLE LEAVE
JUST TO RE-ADJUST THEIR STRATEGIES.
OH...
SIGH
AIYA, SAORI SHOULD BE WORKING HARD TOO
PLAYING NECK TO NECK AGAINST THE MEIJIN,

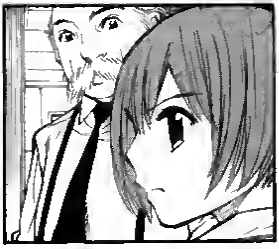
FOR A FEMALE PLAYER, IT'S STILL WAY TOO EARLY
RIGHT?
I THINK I'M GONNA HAVE TO THINK FOR A BIT-
OH! YOU MOVED A PAWN
IS THIS HOW YOU USUALLY PLAY SHION?
BUT YOU CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL HERE, CAN YOU? THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING HIDDEN HERE
I won't be tricked by your strategies.
OH...

HUH? THIS TIME IT'S SHION THAT CAME OUT
IT SEEMS LIKE THAT GAME OVER THERE IS QUITE INTENSE
.....
...USUALLY SHION DOESN'T MOVE AFTER THE GAME HAS BEEN SET. IT'S QUITE ODD THAT SHE WOULD LEAVE, WHAT A RARE OCCURRENCE
HISTANI'S CELL PHONE WORRIES ME TOO...
IF SHE WAS IN A BETTER MOOD IT WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE...
THIS NERVOUS ATMOSPHERE ISN'T BAD!
BUT SHE HAS A VERY SERIOUS FACE ON RIGHT NOW...
GOTTA GO UPLOAD QUICK
.....

ペコッ
AH... ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
THERE HASN'T BEEN A CHANGE IN THEIR GAME...
SHE'S FACING ME HEAD ON.
THIS SENSE OF FULFILLMENT I COULDN'T TASTE WHEN PLAYING AGAINST WOMEN
IT'S THIS KIND OF FEELING
THE MOOD IS GOOD...
SOMETHING I CAN'T GET WHEN PLAYING WITH OTHER FEMALES

YES!
...IT'S TIME.
LET'S START.


WANT TO GO INSIDE?



I must return to my own game!
Ayumi is fighting too...

ふふん

YASUOKA-SAN HAS BEEN LOOKING SICK RECENTLY.
WELCOME BACK.
DID YOU GO SEE YOUR FATHER'S GAME?
IS IT POSSIBLE
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
Why does this person pick on me like this? I can't figure it out!
But I think I understand a little...

This person
hates playing shogi...!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED
HER EXPRESSION IS DIFFERENT FROM THIS MORNING
IS IT BECAUSE OF SHION .?

SAORI
DON'T RELY ON OTHER PEOPLE TO HELP YOU.
HANI-NII!?
DON'T LOOK AT ME AS SOMEONE YOU ADMIRE
OR AS YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLE.
VIEW ME AS A SHOUGI PLAYER AND COME AT ME!

YES.
IT SHOULD BE LIKE THIS, RIGHT?
Black 2-6 pawn move.
This is last night's...
.....
It's how Hisatani played...
AS FOR THIS KIND OF STRATEGY,
I THOUGHT IT'D BE NICE TO TRY.
That's to say, he has already done research into this!?

Because it's not used often...
If I had known, I would have asked on how to beat it earlier.
パチ
AIYA?
IS THAT HOW IT GOES...?
This might also just be a ploy.
Hmm, there are still some differences.
Is it because he didn't find out the deeper nuances?

It's a lie.
Your words and your attitude are all a deception
YEAH, THIS IS DIFFICULT AS EXPECTED, YOU'RE STRONG, SHION-SAN
But—
Shougi doesn't lie!

WHITE 8-9 ROOK.
AHH, I'VE BEEN HAD WHAT SHOULD I DO..?
WHAT CAN I DO...?
He seems to like attacking more than defending.
Even though he's strong, the way he plays is weird.
Then he will move black 4-6... or the black 7-3 bishop,
Then I will have eon!
I LIKE TO PLAY LIKE THIS

Black 6-8 horse-!?
Yeah.
The game against Ayumi was the same.
...It was a beautiful defend.
He knows how to play like that?
I was too childish.

This man... can use shogi to lie to people!

THIS REALLY IS A HARD GAME OF SHOGI!!

BLACK 6-8 HORSE... HE'S USING THE ROOK AND HORSE TO DEFEND HIS PIECES
THIS IS A HARD TO PLAY AND "HARD TO GO AGAINST" MOVE.
HUH? SATORU-SAN?
HE'S QUITE HARD TO PLAY AGAINST
OH...
CERTAINLY, IT DOESN'T FIT SATORU-SAN'S IMAGE... A DEFENSIVE MOVE.
.....

SATORU
HEY!
IT'S YOUR TURN SATORU, QUICK GO!
HMM-
THEN BLACK 7-7 SILVER.
WHITE 7-6 PAWN.

SO SLIPPERY BROTHER... I MAKE IT EVERY NIGHT.
OOH~
OH!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL FORFEIT. YOU'VE LOST.
AS PER AGREEMENT, YOU'LL BE MAKING DINNER TONIGHT
TO BEAT ME, YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO DEFEND.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN BEAT ME FIRST.

YOU STILL WORRYING ABOUT SHION?
UH.. WELL
It's a little embarrassing.
AH,
OH, YASUOKA-SAN,
I LIKE HOW SHE PLAYS, SO I ENJOY HELPING HER.
THANK YOU, HANI-SENSEI FOR TAKING CARE OF SHION.
NO, NO, I AM..
BLACK 6-8 HORSE
SATORU STILL HAS TRICKS UP HIS SLEEVES.
UMM HANI-MEIJIN, ACTUALLY, I NEED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING...

DOES IT SEEM SHION IS WORRYING TOO MUCH?
.....
SATORU... YOU,
YOU HAVEN'T REALLY PUT YOUR SPIRIT INTO THE GAME...
KOBAYASHI!
CAN I ASK YOU TO LEAVE FOR A MOMENT?
OKAY
YASUOKA-SAN,

IS IT POSSIBLE
THAT SATORU GOT YOU INTO SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
MAKOTO-SAN,
EH?
FROM THE INFORMATION THAT YASUOKA-SAN PRESENTED...
WHAT DO THE POLICE THINK?

THE INVESTIGATION WAS A BIT WEIRD AND DONE BY A PI, CAN WE TRUST IT...?
THE ONES KILLED WERE SHION'S BLOOD PARENTS.
AS FOR SHION'S UNCLE,
THE ONE WHO GAVE THE INFORMATION TO YASUOKA-SAN,
AND THE ONE WHO FOUND HISATANI'S CELL PHONE THE NEXT MORNING WAS...
SATORU HANI.

THAT IS QUITE SUSPICIOUS
.....
WHO KNOWS!
WE CAN'T BE SURE RIGHT NOW.

HOWEVER, AFTER LOSING BOTH PARENTS, HE JUST GAVE UP ON SHOGI
.....
THE MEIJIN'S YOUNGER BROTHER
HE USED TO BE ON PAR WITH MEIJIN WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG
ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION HE SEEMS TO HAVE DONE A LOT OF BUSINESS WITH LOTS OF INDUSTRIES AND COMPANIES
THERE'S NOTHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS HISTORY...
WHY WOULD HE HAVE THIS KIND OF MOTIVE?
I HAVE TO FIRST-

FIGURE OUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SATORU AND SHION'S FAMILY...

Happy Birthday Aries_Girl!
Happy Birthday
-Nomit, Kara, Delirium, Decadent Cupcake
For one of the most hardworking staff on the team, I wish you a Happy Birthday and may your wishes do come true, Aries Girl!
-Vreiya
Happy Birthday Aries!
Remember to have some fun, and not stress out too over those papers! Go out and have fun with friends, or stay at home with some cookies and a good book. No matter what you decide, I hope you enjoy it.
-Cyclobenzene
The special day has finally come! Happy Birthday to you Aries Girl! Stay happy always!
Best Wishes~
-Quincan
Hey Aries, Happy Birthday! Grab some hot chocolate while enjoying a spectacular view, or maybe nab some hunk and dance the night away. Point is, go have some fun on your birthday girl, you deserve it, since you've been slaving for us since practically the very beginning! So GO! Oh, don't forget to take pics~ then I can bug you to show them on the chan~ *hugs and kisses* Tyre <3
happy birthday and thanks for the superb proofing
-kaeas
生日快樂祝你每天過的高高興興的
-Pyros

Greetings, readers!

Hope you enjoyed the chapter.
If you want more, be sure to stop
by immortalabyss.com to
download future releases.

The scanlation of this chapter
was made possible by the dedication
and hard work of the following
people. Thanks guys! ^^

Translator: BlueCloud
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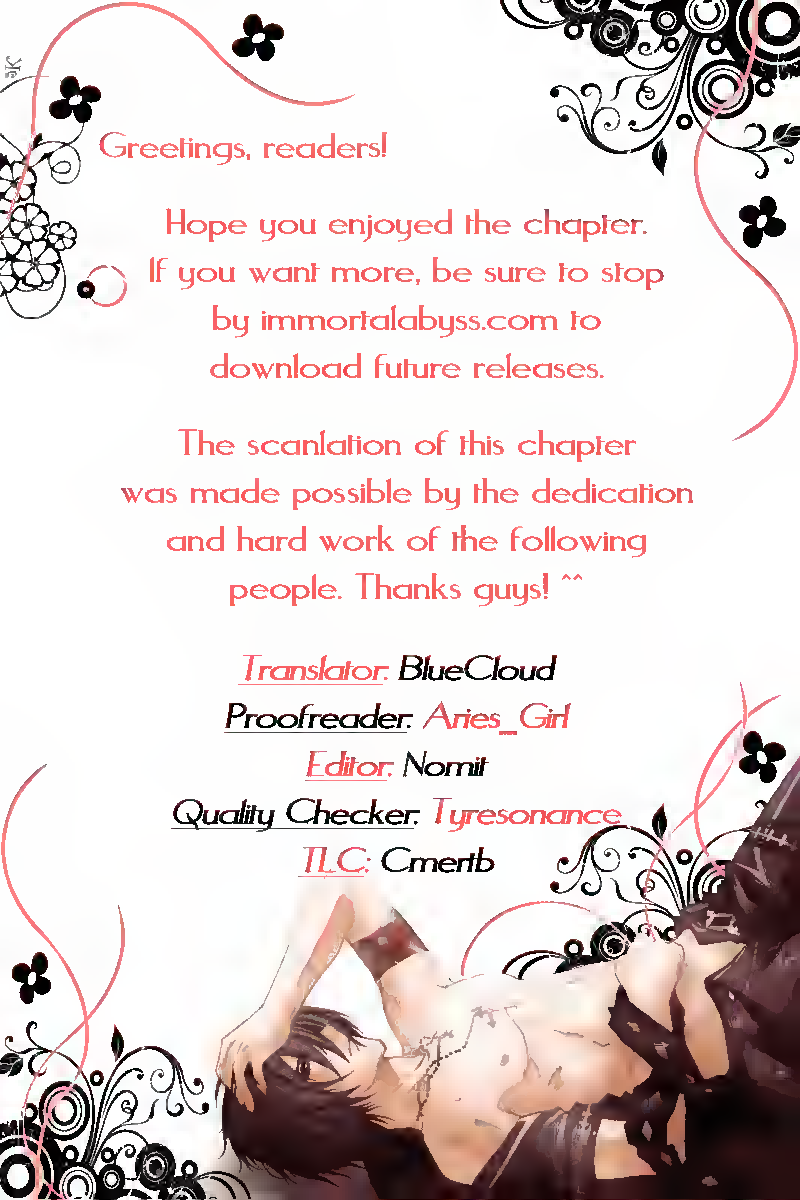
TLC: Cmertb



It is pefectly enticing
and adorably cute..
Oh yes, this is the type of project I wanted..
Don't worry, we will find people to help us...
I'll be taking good care of this little guy.
WE CAN'T GO PICKING PROJECTS WITHOUT HAVING THE STAFF FOR IT!
We don't have enough editors for this project...
Are you sure?
So please apply on our forum! You know you want to...
We need scanners, translators, cleaners, typesetters, editors, and QCs!
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